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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Do you intend to visit the Taste of the Marianas anytime this month?

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Marcy Ermitanio and Ma. Chrizelle L. Omotoy capture top awards in the Law Day contests.

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The military is under-reporting the number of Afghan attacks on its troops.

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Twin suicide bombs explode in Syria, killing nine and wounding 100.

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WITH 16 MONTHS LEFT BEFORE FUNDS ARE RECLAIMED

34 ARRA projects yet to start, be completed

»CNMI grants peaked at $119M but $29M yet to be drawn down

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

With 16 months to go before federal agencies could reclaim unspent American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, the CNMI has yet to either start or complete 34 of 57 reported ARRA-funded projects involving almost $99 million of the more than $119 million in total grants since 2009.

Of the 57 ARRA-funded projects, only 23 or 40 percent have been completed involving $20.4 million in awards.

Three projects have not even started, involving $4.55 million in ARRA funding.

Eighteen projects or 32 percent are now more than 50 percent complete, involving $72 million.

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15 to 17 CHC admin staff to be terminated

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Fifteen to 17 administrative staff at the Commonwealth Health Center are expected to be laid off as part of a reduction-in-force to help sustain the cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Juan N. Babauta, the corporation's chief executive officer, disclosed that these employees will be let go within the month to "significantly reduce" the personnel cost at the Commonwealth's lone public hospital. The corpo-

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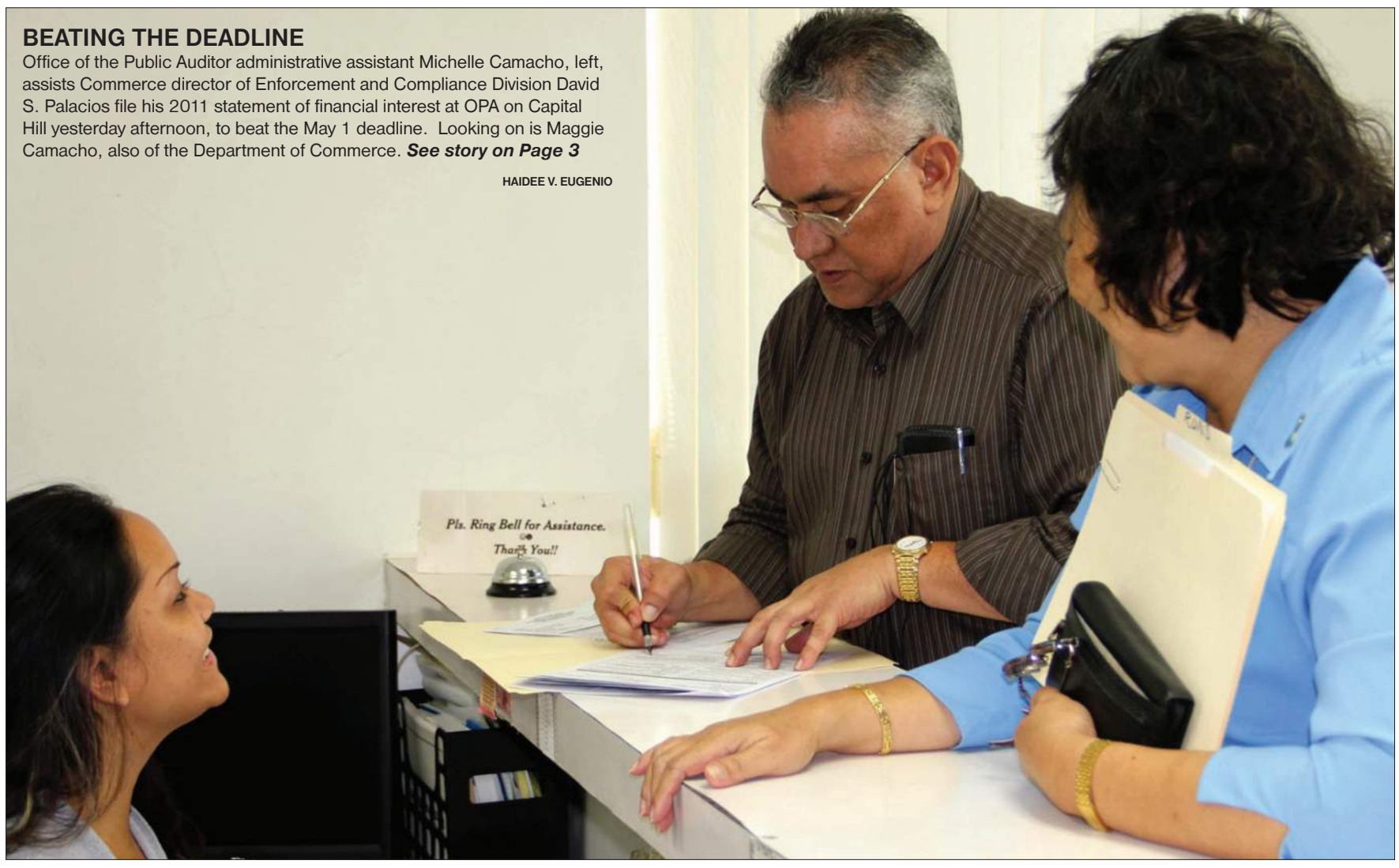
BEATING THE DEADLINE
Office of the Public Auditor administrative assistant Michelle Camacho, left, assists Commerce director of Enforcement and Compliance Division David S. Palacios file his 2011 statement of financial interest at OPA on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, to beat the May 1 deadline. Looking on is Maggie Camacho, also of the Department of Commerce. ***See story on Page 3***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CHC line of credit bill heads to Fitial

»House panel promises passage of SB 17-80 during next session

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate passed yesterday on Rota a compromise version of a bill providing an $11.58-million line of credit and loan for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. The passage came only after senators received assurance yesterday from the House that an accompanying bill will be passed by the House at its next session.

Of the $11.58 million, up to $7 million is considered "new" line of credit that the Marianas Public Land Trust will be authorized to provide CHC.

The conference committee version of House Bill 17-278 now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for his signature.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators confirmed that the conference committee version of the line of credit bill passed the

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3 found guilty of assaulting female store clerk. PAGE 2
Man indicted for alleged production of child porn. PAGE 5

Local

Ermitanio, Omotoy top Law Day contests

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Marcy Ermitanio, an eighth grade student at ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School, and Ma. Chrizelle L. Omotoy, a sixth grader from William S. Reyes Elementary School, captured the top awards in the Law Day Essay and Law Day Poster contests of the CNMI Judiciary.

The 13-year-old Ermitanio received the Supreme Court Award yesterday after besting 57 other middle school students from private and public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with her essay titled, "We the People Control the Justice."

She wrote that "our freedoms are given to us by the Constitution, but are presented to us by the Judiciary. Justice is found in our court system, but is handled by the people."

The 12-year-old Omotoy took the Superior Court Award after her poster was chosen as the best among the entries submitted by 121 elementary students in the CNMI.

Ermitanio, daughter of Francisco and Alma Ermitanio, said it took her a week to complete the essay.

"It was pretty unexpected," she said of her win.

Omotoy, on the other hand, "feel overwhelmed."

The daughter of Christopher and Maria Hazel Omotoy, she was also recognized as Artist of the Month at WSR last December.

At the 2nd Law Day awarding ceremony held yesterday at the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom, acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro expressed appreciation to Public School System Commissioner Rita Sablan for her help in bringing the Rota and Tinian winners and their coaches and teachers to Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School's Marcy Ermitanio, left, and William S. Reyes Elementary School's Ma. Chrizelle L. Omotoy, second from right, show off their awards after capturing first places in the Law Day Essay and Poster contests. Also in the photo are Superior Court clerk of court Bernie A. Sablan, right, and Supreme Court clerk of court Jennifer Dockter. The awarding ceremony was held yesterday at the Supreme Court's courtroom.

Castro also thanked the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society for providing the cash prizes.

"I would also like to thank the teachers for their untiring assistance to our students—the future leaders of our Commonwealth," Castro said.

In his closing remarks, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja said that although only five students in each contest were presented with awards, all participants received the greatest award—learning.

Naraja said the goal of the contest is to encourage deep, analytical thinking into the role and importance of the court. "The courts bring order to society and, as many of you illustrated in your essays and posters, prevent chaos from arising. The courts breathe life into the law that protects our freedom and ensures justice. Therefore, your understanding of the court system is a valuable reward," he said.

The other top winners in the essay contest were Thomas Lee A. Manglona II of Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, second place (Chief Justice Award); Jaqueline Doctor of Mount Carmel School, third place (Associate Justice Award); Juden Joyner of ChaCha Oceanview Junior High School, honorable mention; and Odorico San Nicolas, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, honorable mention.

In the poster contest, the other winners are Euray Lim of Grace Christian Academy, Saipan, second place (Presiding Judge Award); Chloe Hazel Ann P. Salvosa of William S. Reyes Elementary School, third place (Associate Judge Award); Michaela Nica E. Gariguez of WSR, honorable mention; and Angelo S. Lucero of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja, honorable mention.

The winners were given cash awards ranging from $125 to $25 and a copy of the book, Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary—a Historical Overview, plus a certificate of recognition signed by Castro and Naraja.

This year's Law Week activities conclude Thursday, May 3, at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe with the Attorney Generals' Cup. The competition begins at 8am and the public is invited to attend.

Fund board laments arrears of govt agencies

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board is concerned about the delayed payments and deficiencies in employer contributions of several government offices and autonomous agencies.

While most agencies make payments, some of them are "not caught up" with their outstanding contributions while others do not pay the contribution rate of 60.8686 percent imposed by the Fund at the beginning of fiscal year 2012 or last October, according to Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez.

Villagomez noted during yesterday's regular meeting that some of these employers have to be reminded about the need to pay their contribution arrears.

For example, the contribution arrears of the Public School System now amount to about $28.6 million and still continues to accrue since they only pay a 30 percent rate, said Villagomez.

If a PSS employee wants to take out his or her retirement, Villagomez said they would write to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan to inform them that they have to pay the deficient contributions attributable to that employee before retirement.

The board instructed Villagomez to "wake up" the attention of PSS since it is lagging with both employee and employer contributions by several pay periods now.

On the other hand, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. pays at the same rate as the central government and Villagomez said "we obviously don't agree with that position. There's a law and the law says you pay the actual rate and that rate is 60 percent."

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., meanwhile, wasn't paying anything at all and did so only when the Fund notified it "to pay up especially the life and health insurance premiums or else their employees' coverage will be terminated."

The Commonwealth Development Authority also pays less than the 60 percent actuarial rate contribution—or 37 percent.

Villagomez said these contributions are "pooled" into the GHLI account and get periodically remitted to Aetna to cover payments.

"If one of the agencies don't remit, we know that right away. But the coverage doesn't lapse right away because it's part of the policy," added the administrator.

3 found guilty of assaulting female store clerk

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

After a six-day trial in the Superior Court, all three suspects accused of beating up a female store clerk were found guilty Monday.

The six jurors returned their verdict in the trial of Arinna A. Reiong, Norna Tipingeni, and Anson Sansi after deliberating for less than three hours.

The jurors found Reiong and Tipingeni guilty of aggravated assault and battery but not guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon.

They found Sansi not guilty of aggravated assault and battery, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, who decided on misdemeanor charges, found Reiong and Tipingeni guilty of one count each for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. Wiseman found Sansi guilty of two counts of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

They will be sentenced on June 20, 2012.

Reiong, Tipingeni, and Sansi were accused of beating store clerk Xiao Ping Tudela using butane cans, even as Tudela lay unconscious inside the Dhaka Store in Chalan Kanoa.

In addition, Sansi was accused of assaulting Amin Nurul who was in the store at the time.

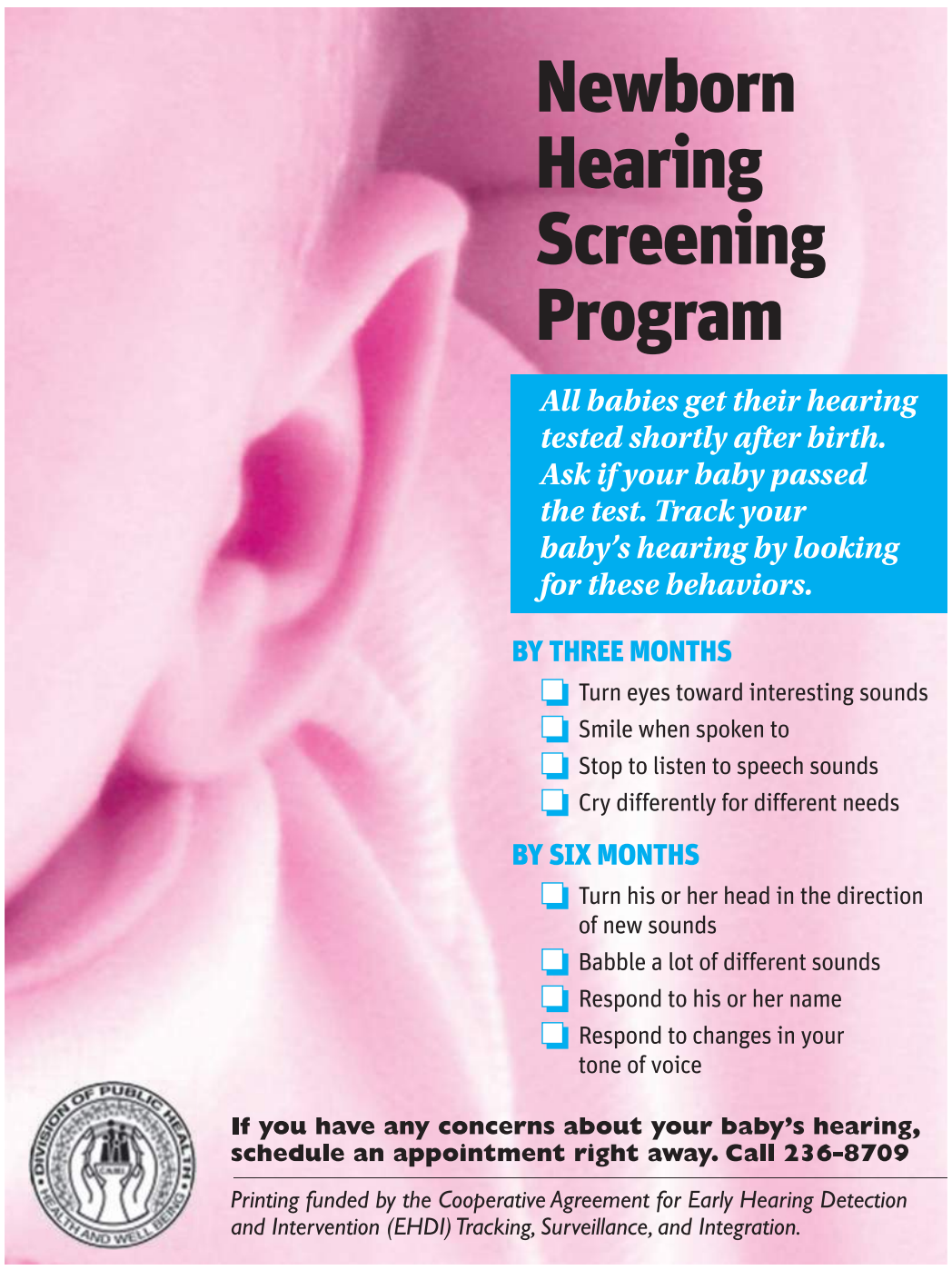
Assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and Darren Robinson prosecuted the case.

Attorney Ramon Quichocho is counsel for Reiong. Attorneys Joaquin Torres and Michael Evangelista are court-appointed counsels for Sansi and Tipingeni respectively.

Tudela testified how the suspects started beating her up when she confronted co-defendant Cheroleen Ray for slamming the telephone on its console in the morning of Aug. 8, 2011.

When a police officer responded to the store, Tudela was found lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Ray and another co-defendant, Mark Rudolph, had already entered a guilty plea and were subsequently sentenced.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Govt officials beat deadline to file financial statements

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, several lawmakers, and other government officials rushed to file their 2011 statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor by yesterday's deadline.

Others, including some lawmakers, said they were unable to beat the May 1 deadline but they said they will file their financial statements today or before the end of this week.

Despite the May 1 deadline, the law provides a 30-day grace period. After that, government officials will be fined $10 for every single day that they fail to file their statement of financial interest.

At past 1:30pm, government officials continued to drop by the OPA on Capital Hill to file their financial statements personally. Some relegated the filing to their staff.

David S. Palacios, director of the Department of Commerce's Enforcement and Compliance Division, said he almost missed the filing deadline. Palacios said he downloaded the form from the OPA website.

"If they reminded me ahead of time, I wouldn't have rushed to file it. Obviously they never reminded me," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview while he's filing his financial statement with OPA.

A few moments later came Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), followed by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) who also filed their statement of financial interest.

"Usually, I get my notification in the mail. I don't know what happened," said Conner, as he requested a form from OPA, filled it out, and submitted it to OPA within minutes.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the governor and lieutenant governor's statements of financial interest were filed by staff yesterday afternoon. Demapan said he also filed his yesterday.

"We never miss deadlines," he said.

In separate interviews with *Saipan Tribune*, at least 18 of 29 lawmakers said they have already filed their statement of financial interest as of the May 1 deadline.

At least seven of those lawmakers filed theirs yesterday, including Iguel, Basa, Conner, Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said he filed his on March 27. "I just wanted to get it out of the way," he said.

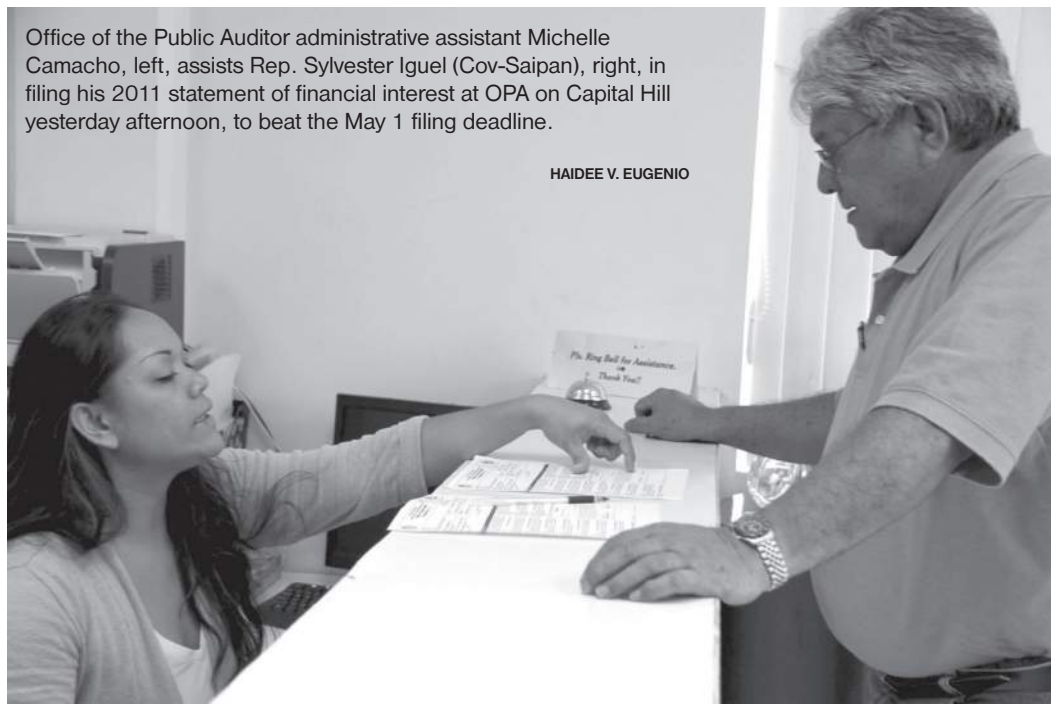
Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), for her part, said she filed hers much earlier—in January.

The others said they filed theirs in recent days and weeks, including House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Reps. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan); House minority leader Joe Guerrero (R-Saipan), and Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) and Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

As of early last night, OPA has yet to respond to media inquiries as to the number of government officials required to file their 2011 statement of financial interest and the number of filers who were able to beat the May 1 deadline.

Under 1 CMC Section 8511 of the Government Ethics Code Act, all elected and appointed Commonwealth officials, judicial officers, and executive department heads or directors are required to file a statement of financial interest. The statement includes government officials' income, and financial interests in real estate, among other things.

Unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. The assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with consent from the filer.



Office of the Public Auditor administrative assistant Michelle Camacho, left, assists Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), right, in filing his 2011 statement of financial interest at OPA on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, to beat the May 1 filing deadline.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Sept. 13 deadline for Fund creditors to file proof of claim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The deadline for creditors to file a proof of claim against the NMI Retirement Fund will be on Sept. 13, 2012, according to court documents.

A notice of the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case, meeting of creditors, and deadlines was filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division.

This developed as U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris issued Friday an order establishing procedures for the Fund's Chapter 11 case.

According to the notice, proof of claim must be received by the bankruptcy clerk's office by Sept. 13, 2012, for all creditors (except a governmental unit). No deadline was indicated in the notice for governmental units.

A proof of claim is a signed statement describing a creditor's claim.

"If a proof of claim form is not included with this notice, you can obtain one at any bankruptcy clerk's office," the notice states.

The notice also sets a meeting of creditors on June 15, 2012, at 9am on the first floor of Horiguchi Building on Beach Road, Garapan. A Fund representative must be present at the meeting to be questioned under oath by the U.S. Trustee and by creditors.

"Creditors are welcome to attend, but are not required to do so. The meeting may be continued and concluded at a later date specified in a notice filed with the court," the notice states.

The court, after notice and a hearing, may order the U.S. Trustee not to convene the meeting if the Fund has filed a plan for which the debtor solicited acceptances before filing the case.

Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition allows the Fund to reorganize or liquidate pursuant to a plan.

The creditors' meeting and deadline to file a proof of claim were among the procedures set by Judge Faris in his order for the Fund to comply with.

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THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Participants must commit to the full set of classes, be eligible to work in the US and be unemployed.

Program funded through a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs and the NMI Department of Commence

Guam International Film Festival calls for entries

The Guam International Film Festival has officially announced its open call for entries for its second annual event, scheduled to take place from Sept. 27 through 30, 2012.

The final date for all submissions is Aug. 3, 2012.

GIFF executive producers and founders Don and Kel Mua have returned with former Paramount Studios director of development, J.D. Iriarte, as festival director.

"The 2012 GIFF will be a refined version of last year's celebration focusing on the three core values of GIFF's mission: community, education and entertainment," said Don Mua.

GIFF proudly presents itself as an international cinema event exhibiting a dynamic source of cross-cultural artistic presence, bridging gaps among the United States, Asia, and the Pacific's multi-cultural population and region.

GIFF is the first and only annual U.S. film festival in the Western Pacific.

"Building on the success of last year's inaugural event of which we've received submissions from over 20 countries from around the world, I'm very excited for year two as we continue to provide a home for world-class cinema right here in the heart of Pacific Asia," said program director Kel Mua.

The mission of the Guam International Film Festival is to foster cultural understanding through the art of cinema, while providing opportunities for local talent to flourish through the international cinema market.

The four-day festival will feature special events including screenings of international independent films including Pacific Asian films, filmmaking workshops, gala events and awards ceremonies.

For more information, visit www.guamfilmfestival.org. ***(PR)***

Guam official: 60 percent of Marines will rotate

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A Guam official says 60 percent the Marines the U.S. plans to move to Guam from Okinawa will rotate through while the rest will be stationed on the island.

The *Pacific Daily News* reports about 3,000 Marines will rotate while 2,000 will be stationed on Guam.

Mark Calvo, the Guam governor's military buildup director, says the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade will have its headquarters on Guam.

The U.S. and Japan announced last week 9,000 Marines on Okinawa would move to Guam and other locations. Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie says he expects the military will send up to 2,700 of the Marines to Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NAPU AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Team Knights for winning the NAPU award at the recently concluded Marianas March Against Cancer. Shown in the picture is Billie Ocampo, MCS National Honor Society president and team captain of Team Knights accepting the award. This is the first year that Mount Carmel School joined the MMAC.

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The remaining 13 projects or 23 percent involving $21.7 million are still less than 50 percent complete.

These are all based on the latest reported data on the federal tracking agency recovery.gov, dated April 30, 2012, and covers the period through March 30, 2012.

The CNMI has been awarded $119,099,588 in ARRA grants since 2009, and there's nothing else that will be added to it. However, as of April 30, 2012, the CNMI has yet to draw down $28.79 million but succeeded in receiving more than $90.3 million.

Despite what others may consider the slow pace in completing ARRA projects despite receiving 76 percent of total awarded funds, businesses and government officials said yesterday there is no doubt that ARRA money has helped buoy the otherwise stagnant economy by funding road construction, classroom construction and renovations, and putting energy-efficient air-conditioners and lighting systems, among other things.

Gregorio Q. Castro, Saipan general manager of SSFM International, said that were it not for ARRA, they and other private businesses and government agencies wouldn't have had the chance to help build roads or employ or retain employees. SSFM provides civil and structural engineering, project management and environmental studies services.

Castro said that SSFM International bagged close to half-a-million in ARRA contracts for two projects—a portion of the Cross Island Road project and the Public School System's newly inaugurated bus station in Lower Base.

"Besides the contracts, we were also able to hire two additional employees because of these projects funded by ARRA," he told Saipan Tribune.

Considering that the CNMI's budget is down to just $102 million, every tax and fee collected from ARRA-related projects will help the CNMI government fund public services such as education, health and safety.

The Obama administration's ARRA was meant to jumpstart the economy and create and save jobs.

In the CNMI, some 41 percent or $48 million of ARRA funds were used for education. This was followed by energy/environment projects totaling almost $39 million. Transportation projects worth over $15 million ranked third, followed by infrastructure with $3.9 million.

Family programs funded by ARRA totaled $2.8 million, while public safety-related projects totaled $2.5 million.

Research and Development/Science programs received $2.3 million ARRA funds, followed by housing programs with $1.9 million; job training/unemployment with $1.8 million; and health, $1.13 million.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said "to a certain extent," he considers ARRA an economic driver.

"It helped develop some of our infrastructure and also provided jobs. Although it did not 'save' the economy, it helped in some way," he said.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said "without having figures at hand on the ARRA grant funding and expenditures to examine, I don't believe there's much doubt that those grants did help our economy."

"We can see projects that were funded by those grants, the jobs they created and wage and salary and business gross revenue taxes being paid. Companies on-island benefited from local spending on those projects, as well," he said.

Of the $119 million awarded to the CNMI, most or over $44 million was awarded to the Office of the Governor. But most of that was given to the Public School System, and others to Northern Marianas College. PSS also directly received another $5 million based on recovery.gov data.

ARRA fund is so far the biggest investment for public schools in the past 23 years.

The only thing that compares to it was the general obligation bond in 1998 when PSS received $32 million, which included the 50 percent local matching fund. In 1998, PSS built new schools.

Another $29.3 million and $13.6 million in ARRA funds were awarded to the "CNMI."

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. received $8.4 million, while the Commonwealth Ports Authority got $5 million.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs so far got $2.7 million, followed by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency with $1.89 million and RJCL Corp. with $1.78 million.

GPPC Inc. was awarded $1.77 million, followed by the Department of Commerce with $1.2 million and the Division of Public Health with $1.085 million.

The others awarded ARRA funds were: HDR Engineering Inc., $650,000; Department of Public Safety, $519,048; Government of the Northern Mariana Islands, $292,719; Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, $106,200; Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp., $103,577; Latte Stones Foundation, $94,998; Winzler & Kelly, $86,873; Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, $78,125; Karidat Social Services, $44,350; Engineering Solutions Inc., $14,436; and NMC, $7,893.

The CNMI, with $119 million, however, has the least ARRA money awarded among five U.S. states and territories.

Guam has so far been awarded $284 million; American Samoa, $208 million; U.S. Virgin Islands, $284 million; and Puerto Rico, $2.6 billion.

HOSPITAL

From Page 1

ration spends some $1.7 million for about 600 employees on three islands per payroll.

The termination of some administrative staff comes about a week after Babauta announced that 24 employees from the Tinian and Rota health centers will be affected by the reduction-in-force.

Before that, CHC already laid off 19 personnel at the Community Guidance Center. This brings to about 60 the number of affected full-time employees since the reduction-in-force was implemented in an attempt to balance the corporation's meager budget.

This number does not include those employees who have resigned in the wake of CHC's financial crisis. Babauta said a total of 30 registered nurses and four doctors have already called it quits and will be leaving in the next month or so.

Babauta noted that the corporation was only given a budget of $5 million to cover personnel and operations at the hospital when they took over that responsibility from the Department of Public Health in October 2011, as compared to the $38 million that DPH used to receive from the central government.

The need to balance the budget was immediate, according to Babauta. "Balancing the budget would mean that if we're going to be operating based on the money we got, we would have to cut the staff by 45 percent."

Babauta emphasized, however, that cutting the staff by 45 percent "would literally cripple the hospital," adding that they also need to meet the requirements of Medicare for the hospital's continued certification, thus deciding on a 30 percent workforce reduction "on an incremental basis."

The corporation's budget headaches have resulted in delayed salaries and housing allowances as well as unpaid hospital vendors. CHC is currently under a state of emergency to allow the reprogramming of funds to prevent a hospital shutdown and to amend the contract with the Idaho-based International Consulting Services LLC for its medical billing services without going through standard procurement rules.

CHC

From Page 1

Senate by a vote of 7-0 during the Rota session.

Two senators were absent: Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, and House Health Committee chair Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) separately assured senators that the House will pass Senate Bill 17-80 on Friday. SB 17-80 changes the nature of the CHC board from an "advisory" to a "governing" one.

"That's the reason why we passed it [compromise HB 17-278]," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to Iguel's assurance.

SB 17-80 was supposed to be passed by the House last week when it cleared the compromise HB 17-278.

The Senate wanted this change in the nature of the CHC board incorporated in the original version of HB 17-278 but that amendment was rejected by the House, resulting in a conference committee that Torres and Iguel co-chaired. The six-member committee agreed to "simultaneously" pass two bills—the conference committee version of HB 17-278 and SB 17-80.

But the House, citing "oversight," passed only HB 17-278 and not SB 17-80 last week, resulting in the Senate holding off passage of HB 17-278 until yesterday.

CHC chief financial officer Alvaro Santos earlier said the hospital needs the additional line of credit authorized by HB 17-278, as well as an annual subsidy of $10 million for several years so that the corporation will be able to continue to provide medical services to the community.

CHC was receiving $38 million government subsidy before it became a corporation in fiscal year 2012.

The Fitial administration gave the corporation just $5 million in seed money for 2012 and expected the hospital to collect $18 million in revenues in 12 months. The hospital is nowhere close to collecting that. Because of the halt in government subsidy and severe lack of funds, CHC always teeters on the brink of a shutdown.

Flores asks for $70K to $100k for kennel project's completion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores has requested the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for funding appropriation to support the ongoing construction of an animal control shelter in Lower Base.

Flores wrote to delegation chair Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb and House Committee on Ways and Means chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul, saying the project is almost finished "but would not be ready to be opened for full operation until it is connected to the island's main sewage collection system."

Flores

"For the dog kennel shelter to be opened for full operation, its wastewater system must be connected to the island's main collection system, in compliance with [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s] requirements," Flores said in his April 12 letter.

According to Flores, the kennel's sewage connection will be "a forced line to the main system" and its design would require pumps and other structures such as manholes.

To do so, Flores said, would not be cheap as they would need $70,000 to $100,000 based on CUC's estimates following an "extensive field investigation" conducted by the utilities agency between July and September of last year.

In March, the mayor also wrote to the delegation asking for $50,000 from the Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund collection.

Flores cited that one of the duties and responsibilities of the Saipan Mayor's Office is the regulation and licensing of dogs, cats, and other domestic animals and "critical" to its effective administration is the kennel.

"Without a kennel, controlling the problem of stray dogs will not be possible," he added.

It was in late December 2011 when construction for the facility began in a building previously used by a garment manufacturer, funded by a $75,000 appropriation from Saipan Local Law 15-12.

Of this amount, 70 percent has already been spent, said Flores, while 51 percent of the remaining amount is already "encumbered."

While the Saipan Mayor's Office has allotted a renovation and construction budget of $15,000 from a grant it received, what's left of this amount is being used in the ongoing public awareness campaign on animal licensing and regulation.

"We estimate the project to continue two to three weeks more before the funds run out," said Flores.

Budget hearings begin today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the fiscal year 2013 budget hearings will cover only five critical or major agencies starting today, giving them an opportunity to be heard whether they can live within their means under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's $102 million budget submission.

"Because there are only five agencies, we will be able to finish the hearings by next week and begin committee deliberation. My goal is to have a budget bill introduced by the end of this month or early June," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at his office.

Fiscal year 2013, which is from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013, will have the same budget level as that of 2012.

"We will have bill ready much earlier than in the last two years. The Senate will have enough time to also review it. Hopefully this year we will be able to agree on a budget ahead of the deadline to avoid a shutdown. After all, the budget for 2013 is the same as the same amount as in 2012," Basa added.

He said the committee will be hearing from the Department of Public Safety today, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. tomorrow.

Wednesday next week, Ways and Means will be hearing from the Judiciary and Northern Marianas College. The following day will be the Public School System's turn.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said he is interested to hear from the Department of Public Lands, which has a projected revenue of over $5.1 million for 2013, compared to only over $2.9 million in 2012.

"That's an increase of over $2.1 million. I hope DPL or Ways and Means will later be able to tell the members why there's this increase. Do they really expect land lease collections to increase? We want to know," Dela Cruz said.

The House adopted last week a concurrent resolution capping the fiscal year 2013 budget at $102 million. But the adoption came only after a lengthy discussion on whether the governor factored in his proposed budget the July launching of Saipan Air, which is expected to boost tourist arrivals and generate additional revenue for the government.

The governor can make changes to his budget submission by July 1 or 90 days before the start of the new fiscal year.

Man indicted for alleged production of child porn

A man was indicted in the U.S. district court on Monday after being allegedly found in possession of a cellular phone that had several images of children, including one image of a boy's genitals.

The indictment charged 41-year-old Rogelio N. Dela Cruz with one count of production of child pornography. The indictment also sought to forfeit Dela Cruz's cellular phone.

According to the indictment, between or about March 1, 2010 and March 18, 2011, Dela Cruz did "knowingly employ, use, persuade, induce, entice, and coerce" a minor boy to "engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct."

The visual depiction, the indictment states, was produced "using materials that had been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate and foreign commerce by any means, including by cellular phone."

Federal agents arrested Dela Cruz on April 25 on charges of sexual exploitation of children and activities relating to material constituting or containing child exploitation.

Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park stated in his affidavit that police arrested Dela Cruz on Rota on March 18, 2011, for various charges related to possible sexual assault of a girl.

Park said the officer saw that Dela Cruz's cell phone contained several images of young children and an image of a boy's genitals.

The FBI obtained a federal warrant to search the defendant's cell phone last April 20. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CONFIRMATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Santa Remedio confirmation students pose after receiving the sacrament.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
May 02 , 2012

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Global Ocean Divers, Inc	02/28/2012 SLRm-2012-X-018	Banana Boat Operation	Saipan Lagoon Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
2.	Aquaville Inc.	03/31/2012 SLRm-2012-X-019	Hydro Bob Scooters	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/30/2012)*
3.	Aquaville Inc.	03/31/2012 SLRm-2012-X-020	Mooring Buoy	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
4.	SandJuvy Bar & Grill	03/01/2012 SLRm-2012-X-021	Bar & Grill	San Jose Beach Road	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/25/2012)*
5.	Saipan Laulau Dev.	03/05/2012 SMS-91-X-79(A)	Warehouse	Laulau	Amendment	Approved (03/15/2012)*
6.	Pacific Subsea Saipan	03/06/2012 SPlm-2012-X-022	Dry Dock	Saipan Lagoon Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (03/08/2012)*
7.	Saipan Crewboats, Inc.	03/08/2012 SLRm-2012-X-023	In-Water Maintenance	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (03/13/2012)*
8.	Saipan Sea Ventures, Inc.	03/13/2012 SPlm-2012-X-024	Dry Dock	South Sea Plane Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/15/2012)*
9.	Cargo Express	03/15/2012 SPlm-2012-X-025	Parking Lot	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/19/2012)*
10.	Saipan Diving Academy	03/15/2012 SPlm-2012-X-026	Dry Dock	South Sea Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (03/19/2012)*
11.	Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	03/19/2012 SLRm-2012-X-027	Mooring Buoy Installation	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
12.	Phillip's Corp, Inc.	03/21/2012 SLRm-2012-X-028	BOB Scuba Scooter	Lagoon & Reef Areas	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (04/30/2012)*
13.	YM Micronesia Inc.	03/21/2012 STR/LRm-2012-X-029	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (03/21/2012)*
14.	Triple J Saipan	03/20/2012 SMS-2010-X-062(A)	Perimeter Fence	Chalan Kanoa	Amendment	Approved (03/20/2012)*
15.	IP&E	04/04/2012 SSm-2012-X-030	Trenching	Garapan TSL Building	Shoreline APC	Approved (04/23/2012)*
16.	Mr. Joaquin Atalig	04/12/2012 SSm-2012-X-031	Concession	Ladder Beach	Shoreline APC	Under Review
17.	Good Day Coordinating	04/23/2012 SSm-2012-X-032	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (03/25/2012)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Govendo to issue written sentencing order vs 'serial rapist'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo failed Monday to reach a decision as to how much jail term he will impose on convicted rapist Anthony Raymond Mendiola Camacho.

Govendo said he will issue a written judgment and read it to Camacho at a later hearing.

The judge said he has to think about the sentencing some more considering the wide discrepancy of the sentencing recommendations of assistant attorney general Shelli Neal and defense counsel Stephen Woodruff.

Govendo cited Camacho's prior convictions—at least five separate criminal cases and four of them involving crimes against four women.

In those five prior cases, Govendo said, Camacho could have been sentenced to a total of 132 years if given the maximum amount of prison time. Yet he was only given a total of three years and 30 days for 16 crimes.

"Anthony was given break one after another after another. Now he is asking me—one more last chance," Govendo said.

The judge said he will send a strong message to the community that these kinds of crime no longer continue.

Neal recommended a sentence of life in prison or a maximum of 55 years and six months, saying that Camacho is a serial rapist.

Woodruff recommended the mandatory maximum of 15 years, subject to parole.

Last Feb. 23, with the jury trial on its third day and the prosecution still to call two witnesses, the 38-year-old Camacho interrupted the proceedings and pleaded guilty to kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, attempted sexual assault in the first degree, and disturbing the peace.

In the latest case, Camacho, a convicted sex offender, tried to rape a woman and threatened to kill her at the secluded old radar station area in As Matuis on Feb. 23, 2011. The victim managed to escape after she hit him in the left eye with the car key, forcing him to go down from the vehicle and giving her the chance to drive off.

Fund board faces lack of quorum

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board will soon lose its quorum as the terms of two trustees will expire consecutively this week.

Fund counsel Viola Alepuyo said in Monday's meeting that one board trustee's term will expire on Thursday, May 3, while the other will expire the following day.

This was in response to retiree Donna Cruz, who attended the meeting and had asked about the status of the Fund's board membership.

Alepuyo said they have inquired with the Executive Branch and were informed that the two trustees will be re-nominated by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Besides the anticipated re-nomination of the two trustees, Juan S. Torres has also been nominated to the Fund board. Torres, if confirmed, will serve the unexpired term of Francisco P. Rosario, which will expire on May 7, 2015.

"But even if he was to be confirmed, we'll still be short by at least one trustee," said Alepuyo.

At present, the Fund board has three trustees: board chair Bernadita C. Palacios, who represents Tinian; Marian DLG Tudela, representing Saipan; Nacrina Barcinas, representing Rota; and vice chair Adelina C. Roberto, representing women's interest on the board.

Alepuyo also disclosed that former Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar's nomination was withdrawn from the Senate last Friday, the 90th day since he was nominated by the governor.

A Senate committee has recommended rejecting Igisomar's re-appointment following the governor's controversial "stupid" remark in reference to Tinian and Rota senators.

CAREER WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fifty-two high school seniors attend the Saipan Chamber of Commerce high school training workshop, "I am Graduating Soon…Now What?," at the Saipan Grand Hotel on Saturday. The trainers are shown here seated, from left, Jim Arenovski, Kanae Quinn, Kyle Calabrese, and Vince Seman. Students received four hours of sessions ranging from choosing different career paths, balancing work and school, and budgeting/finances, to successful interviews and communications.

Fitial renominates 3 to Fund, BPL

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial renominated both NMI Retirement Fund board chair Bernadita C. Palacios and trustee Marian DLG. Tudela, a few days after recalling the renomination of former Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar so he could re-appoint him.

Fitial also renominated Roman S. Demapan to serve another six-year term on the Board of Professional Licensing representing Saipan.

The April 30 renominations of Palacios, Tudela, and Demapan require the advice and consent of the Senate.

If confirmed by the Senate, Tudela will serve another four-year term expiring on May 2, 2016. Tudela represents Saipan on the Fund board.

Palacios' re-appointment, once confirmed by the Senate, will allow her to serve as Fund trustee until May 4, 2016.

Palacios succeeded Igisomar, whose re-appointment did not sit well with the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations. Palacios represents Tinian on the Fund board. The Fitial administration said it strongly believes that Igisomar can continue to be a tremendous asset especially at this very critical juncture of the NMI Retirement Fund. The Fund has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

Demapan, once confirmed by the Senate, will serve on the BPL another six-year term that expires on May 13, 2017.

"The Lt. Governor and I are confident that you are qualified and will continue to be an asset on this important board," Fitial said in separate letters to the three appointees.

Besides Palacios and Tudela, the other Fund board trustees are vice chair Adelina C. Roberto and Nacrina Barcinas. The board currently has three vacancies after the term expiration and resignation of the following trustees: Igisomar, Frank Rosario, and Jerry Crisostomo.

Senate junks bill regulating Mobil, Shell

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. and Shell Marianas, among other firms, can heave a sigh of relief for now, following the Senate's rejection last night of a House bill subjecting liquid fuel distributors and retailers under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission.

By a vote of 7-0, the Senate adopted during a session on Rota the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications' report recommending rejection of House Bill 17-238, House Draft 1, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and other senators said last night.

HB 17-238, authored by House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), passed the House on first and final reading during a Dec. 6 session, less than a month after it was introduced on Nov. 10 and without public hearing.

The Senate, through its PUTC Committee, gathered comments from oil giants and other affected parties before recommending that the bill be rejected, citing negative impacts on consumers and the CNMI in general.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. president Jaime Andres Ortega told Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and guests in April that HB 17-238 tries to "micromanage" fuel suppliers and retailers. He said the bill is detrimental not only to Mobil but also to the entire CNMI economy.

"Regulations do not necessarily lead to price reductions," he had said, adding that "no amount of government intervention will help overcome the market forces driving the price of fuel."

Among the factors affecting fuel prices is the price of crude oil; manufacturing, transportation, marketing and other costs; and taxes.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Fiesta Resort & Spa
is inviting all
CNMI Contractor
for a bidding on renovation
of Roof and extension
of buffet line.

Time : 3pm
Where : Ocean View Terrace
Date : May 8, 2012 (Tuesday)

For more information contact
Engineering Department
@ 234-6414 extension 1536 or 989-6408

15 Saipan students attend Guam anti-drug conference

Fifteen members of the Youth Advisory Panel of Marianas High School and one Saipan Southern High School student recently attended the 22nd annual Youth for Youth Conference in Guam, thanks to the Department of Youth Services and the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Task Force.

The conference, with the theme "2012: Time For Change," was held at the Hyatt Regency in Tamuning from April 27 to 29, 2012.

Youth for Youth started in May 1988 and was co-founded by Bobbie Benavente and Gayle Osborne. The organization is a youth-centered, youth-driven, and a community-based prevention program that advocates for a drug-free lifestyle. Every year, they host a conference for youths from all over the Pacific. This year, students from the CNMI and Marshall Islands attended.

The program allows teens to participate in many prevention programs, implementations, and evaluations (such as leadership roles, being a team player, online safety, safe sex, bullying, anger management, and many more). Many life skills are also learned.

Comments from some of the participants:

■ Daniel Cha, senior: "The family group activities such as sharing a personal story and how they coped with it made me feel closer to allow the bond and trust to be there."

The CNMI delegation to the 22nd annual Youth for Youth Conference in Guam mug for the camera. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

■ Bruce Li, freshman and YAP president: "The conference was like a puzzle piece that came together very smoothly. The program made you realize that the world cannot end simply in 2012. New changes will take effect during this era but we need to work together."

■ Nelisa Brel, junior and YAP vice president: "The best part of the conference was the message that the keynote speaker Josephine gave on the second day. Storytelling is a release that can lighten the burdens of life. Everyone has a story that has a way to touch others. If our stories aren't heard then there is no benefit to someone else who might just be feeling the same thing. Insecurity, guilt, anger, and more negative energy could creep up on you and control your life. Yet we have the power to use our stories to bless other youth. We have the ability to say we are stronger than the challenges we face."

■ Thomasa Naraja, junior: "It made me realize that the youth plays a big role in this world. They have inspired me to confront these troubles in order to make a difference among our youth."

■ Jorem Guardian, sophomore: "I was able to understand more clearly the problems the youth face not just [on] Saipan, but many other communities in the Pacific as well. The best solution to facing your problems is talking to someone about it. You are never alone."

■ Sierra Benavente, junior: Being part of a large high school puts much effort on our hands to show our island that the youth are leaders who can open bigger doors that will determine which life we take and how we live our life for today and tomorrow."

■ Maria Theresa Dizon, freshman, class president and YAP treasurer" "It all started from the EUDL program that supports the prevention of underage drinking. The peer-driven strategies used at the conference were good and we were all blessed to attend. The conference has truly made a difference in my life."

Other participants were Jimin Cheon, Magdiel Corpuz, Kelly Demapan, Aiko Erungel, Jacklyn Garote, David Anthony Hosono II, Lisascheeyong Iginoef, Joseph Ngeskebei, and Carl John Tabucol.

The chaperones were Janice Muna, Hazel Grace Tudela, Jacklyn Mendiola, Jennifer Tanaka, and Sharma Iginoef. The group also acknowledged the assistance and support of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, Department of Youth Services, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School. ***(Carl John Tabucol)***

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE ON AGING
Older Americans Month
Mes Man Amko' • Maramal Tuufey
never too old to play
older americans month 2012
MAY 2012
never too old to play

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Congregates at the Aging Center pose for a group photo at the Garapan Fishing Base following the Man'amko Health March yesterday. The walk, which started at the 13 Fishermen Pavilion, is part of the celebration of the Older Americans Month/Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey.

Elderly walk to kick off 'Mes Man'amko'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

About 36 congregates of the Aging Center took part in the Man'amko Health March held yesterday as part of the celebration of Older Americans Month/Mes Man'amko/Maramal Tuufey.

The congregates wore hats, used umbrellas, and brought towels to beat the heat as they walked toward Garapan Fishing Base from the 13 Fishermen's Pavilion.

A vehicle at the center was on standby while the group, led by some six female *man'amko* holding the Older Americans Month banner, walked along the Beach Road pathway.

Some motorists who saw the *man'amko* during the walk honked their horns in support of the island's elderly.

Jacoba Asuncion said she "almost gave up" because she thought the distance between the two points was far but was encouraged to continue by her fellow *man'amko*.

"I'm sweating but I feel very good. It's a really good experience," said Asuncion after the walk.

Another congregate, Pacita Angeles, said that walking has health benefits for the *man'amko*. "It's a really good exercise for us and I'll be glad to do it again," added Angeles.

Aging coordinator Walter Manglona, who joined the walkers at the end point, noted that the other congregates who use canes or are in wheelchair had to remain behind at the center as they found it difficult to walk.

Manglona lauded all the *man'amko* who joined and finished the walk to the end.

"This is our first activity for the Older Americans Month and what better way to start it than by getting out there and walking to stay healthy," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "Never underestimate the *man'amko* because they're never too old to play," referring to the theme for the monthlong celebration.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Teresita Sorroza said that while some of the congregates had weak and painful knees, they were still able to make it so they deserve to be recognized.

"They were very cooperative and by taking part in the event, they showed their support for the activities that have been lined up for May," added Sorroza.

Volunteers sought for Makaka Beach cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Makaka Beach, Saipan this Saturday, March 5, 2012, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet the DEQ representatives on Saturday at the beach entrance behind Joeten Hafadai in Garapan.

Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

Last month, the islandwide cleanup drew over 500 volunteers from McDonalds, SSHS Youth Ambassadors Club, Kagman Junior High, Tan Holdings, D&Q, CTSI, POI, L&T, Century Insurance, Century Travel, *Saipan Tribune*, Saipan World Resort, Brabu Pharmacy, PDM Promoters, Marianas and Unity Lions Club, CUC, DPW, CRM, Executive Office, Commerce, DPH/BEH, DPL and others. Some 6,800 lbs of trash was removed from roadsides and beaches and properly disposed off. The DEQ is looking forward to a repeat success this Saturday.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

FOA to stage 'Sleuth' this week

Friends of the Arts will stage the play *Sleuth*, written by Anthony Shaffer, at the Dolphin Blackbox Theatre (Marianas High School-T Building) on May 4, 5, and 6, 2012. This is the final production of their current season.

Sleuth takes place in 1960's England and revolves around the gamesmanship between two men, Andrew Wyke and Milo Tindle. It captures the essential differences between an older, more traditional generation represented by Wyke and the freedoms new to the 1960's portrayed by Tindle.

Although the title makes this sound like a traditional mystery, it is not. It is a drama where "sleuth" refers more to a living game that Wyke and Tindle devise and play, fooling each other with deceptions, pretenses and false motives in increasing methods of hilarity and one-upsmanship. Wyke wants to continue playing the game endlessly; Tindle wants to finish it once and for all but both men want to win.

This is a play where you will not be sure who is the protagonist or antagonist, for whom you should root because both the traditional and the contemporary have flaws. This enigma is part of the intrigue, mystery and suspense. The show contains elements of mystery, suspense, farce and wordplay. If you like games, thinking, solving puzzles or listening to verbal repartee, then *Sleuth* is just the kind of show you'd appreciate.

Sleuth was made into a movie twice: once in 1972 with Laurence Olivier as the older Andrew Wyke and Michael Caine as the younger rival, Milo Tindle; and again in 2007 with Michael Caine returning, but as Andrew Wyke and with Jude Law as Milo Tindle. This play received a Tony Award and has been staged all over the world in different theatres.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bernard Rivera, left, as Milo Tindle and Leo Goode as Anthony Wyke rehearse a scene from *Sleuth* by Anthony Shaffer.

The Saipan version features Leo Goode as Andrew Wyke and Bernard Rivera as Milo Tindle. FOA is excited to bring this production to the Dolphin Blackbox Theatre, where it also staged *The Miracle Worker*. The MHS Dolphin Blackbox Theatre has enjoyed a successful first year in operation and provides a unique theatre experience in Saipan.

The time of the show will be 7pm Friday and Saturday nights, May 4 and 5, with a matinee at 3pm Sunday May 6. All shows will be staged in the Dolphin Blackbox Theatre (MHS-T building). Tickets are available at $15 for adults, $12 for FOA members, and $8 for students (including NMC students with an ID card). For more information or to reserve or buy tickets, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com or at 789-0519. ***(FOA)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Benedict Joseph L. Rabauliman! There are so many times you drive me insane with your annoying humor *but* then again, it is that very same humor that makes me fall in love with you all over again everyday! Wishing you all the joy on your special day! Greetings come from Jade.

Rota WIA participant completes Hawaii Job Corps Program

Back in April 2010, Orville Manglona was accepted into the Hawaii Job Corps Program, leaving his family and the peaceful island of Rota with these words: "To enhance my skills in academics, hands-on training and to increase my knowledge so I can give back to the community and with this rare opportunity I will work hard to succeed, make my family and island community proud, and be a positive role model to my younger brother."

Manglona

On Monday, the CNMI Workforce Investment Agency announced that Manglona has indeed fulfilled his promise and returned back home to Rota with a certificate of completion in Finance and Business Administration. In addition, Manglona brings home hard skill sets after passing MasterExams in IC3- Key Applications, PowerPoint 2007, Excel 2007, Outlook 2007 and IC3-Computing Fundamentals.

The WIA, under the Office of the Governor, is the administering agency for WIA USDOL ETA funded programs and also serves as the Job Corps Outreach and Admissions Agency as prescribed under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. WIA extends its congratulations to Manglona for a job well done! ***(Office of the Governor)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Finu Chamorro, Teen Talk move to Channel 14

The TV programs Finu Chamorro and Teen Talk have changed channels and are now on Channel 14 (MCV: The Weather Channel). Finu Chamorro airs Fridays and Saturdays, 6:30pm-7pm, immediately followed by Teen Talk from 7pm to 7:30pm. The new schedule is effective this Friday, May 4, 2012. ***(PR)***

Upcoming health and safety trainings

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the following health and safety training at its training room located on Airport Road:

■ First Aid: Wednesday, May 9, and Thursday, May 24, 6pm-9pm

■ Adult CPR/AED: Thursday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 23, 6pm-9pm

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A $70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

SNISWCD meeting set

This is to inform the general public that the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will be conducting their monthly meeting on Monday, may 14, 2012, at 10am at the Natural Resources Conservation Service office on Beach Road Garapan. For more information contact Diane Gabaldon at 256-7154. ***(PR)***

Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its May general membership meeting today, May 2, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Sandcastle Ballroom. Luncheon begins at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at 12pm. Luncheon fees are $20 for SCC members, $30 for guests and the public.

This month's agenda includes a presentation by the Citizens for Change of Article 12 and their efforts to place an initiative to either repeal, or retain, Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution on this November's ballot.

A short presentation by the CNMI Water Task Force's Kay Delafield will be offered as well. ***(SCC)***

Memorial Day preparations

The CNMI is celebrating Memorial Day on Monday, May 28, 2012, 9am at the CNMI Veterans Cemetery. The Veterans Affairs Director and its Committee will be paying tribute to our fallen heroes and is inviting the immediate families to join the community in paying tribute to them. The immediate family is being asked to call the Veterans Affairs office for details at 664-2650/2659 or 287-5351. ***(PR)***

Air Force, Navy training on FDM, Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ May 2-3 from 8am to 5am

■ May 4 from 9am to 7pm.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 2-3 from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 2, 2000

Teno vetoes 2 local bills

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has vetoed two local bills -- one that would have granted unlimited reprogramming authority to the Tinian mayor over funds generated from casino revenues, and the other would have appropriated close to a million dollars from Managaha landing fees. The Tinian measure, passed by the local legislative delegation early last month, had sought to provide flexibility to Mayor Francisco M. Borja to use the money set aside for specific purposes under the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Act for other needs of the island municipality during the current fiscal year. But the governor, in rejecting the proposal, said this would be a violation of the law and it would have waived provisions of Planning and Budgeting Act.

CPA seeks federal money for Tinian breakwater

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is poised at seeking federal money to carry out the needed repair of the badly damaged Tinian breakwater, a project that could cost the CNMI government over $25 million. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said there is an urgent need to rehabilitate the existing breakwater on Tinian, pointing out the possibility of its collapse that may be caused by even a medium intensity typhoon. According to Mr. Palacios, the anticipated collapse of the breakwater has the potential to seriously plunder Tinian's struggling economy due to its current heavy reliance on its harbor for trade and tourism.

May 2, 2001

SC grants Hillblom executor's appeal

The Supreme Court tossed out a July 6, 2000 Superior Court decision to relieve a Chicago-based risk retention group from liability in a legal malpractice action that a Larry L. Hillblom estate executor lodged against its former counsel. The highest appellate tribunal upheld a petition submitted by Hillblom estate executor Bank of Saipan for writ of mandamus, ordering the lower court not to dismiss Attorney's Liability Assurance Society Inc. as a defendant in the pending malpractice suit against lawyer Carlsmith Ball. ALAS is Mr. Ball's professional liability insurer with offices in Chicago, Illinois.

CTSI Logistics: Celebrating success at the crossroads

Nearly 80 participants from over a dozen nations worldwide and islands in the Pacific gathered on Saipan this past week for the 10th Annual CTSI Logistics Management Conference. Held at the Aqua Resort Club on Saipan, the theme of the event is "Business Leadership through Technology and Strategic Alliances." Ten years ago, the island of Saipan was the site of a new entrepreneurial venture. The need for freight forwarding services in the Micronesian region was growing at a rapid pace along with the developing economy. Recognizing potential in the freight forwarding trade, Saipan-based Tan Holdings Corporation opened Consolidated Transportation Services, Inc. ***(CTSI)***.

May 2, 2002

DOLI chief bares plans

Labor and Immigration Secretary Joaquin Tenorio yesterday vowed to address labor concerns, in light of complaints filed by CNMI workers. Tenorio, who was the guest speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce General Membership meeting yesterday at the Dai-Ichi Hotel said, there is disparity between local residents and nonresident workers considering the total number of foreigners employed in the CNMI. Based on records, Tenorio said there are 35,300 workers in the CNMI; 16, 000 of whom are Chinese and 13,000 are Filipinos.

Debate looms over Compact issue

Putting his money where his mouth is, Senate Vice President David M. Cing has asked Senate President Paul A. Manglona to schedule a special session where he could debate with Senate Minority Leader Pete P. Reyes on the issue of Compact Impact funds, and why Tinian has as much right to the funds as Saipan. "I am this serious on that debate because I want the people of the entire Commonwealth to understand my situation coming from Tinian, the history of our present status as a Commonwealth, and the important role that Tinian played when we became a Commonwealth," said Cing. In a letter to Manglona dated yesterday, the Senate Vice President asked for the special session so he could engage Reyes in a debate concerning the Compact Impact funds.

10th Marianas March Against Cancer

PHOTOS By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Team Tan Holdings/Kagman High School receives their certificate of appreciation.

Representatives of Team Bodig accept the Best Baton award.

Winning the Most Spirit award is Team Aschoscho.

KKMP's Gary Sword and Gordon Marciano, who went bald during the MMAC event in support of pediatric cancer.

Members of rookie participant Team #FreeDave smile for the camera as they receive the Most Laps and Best Tent awards.

Members of Team Bodig claim their Most Money Raised award for the family category for collecting $15,000 to support cancer awareness and support.

Members of the Team NMPASI Posse took home the Most Money Raised under the government/non-profit category.

Team PIC is all smiles after winning the Most Money Raised for the corporate category.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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So long, Newt

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune *on Thursday, April 26:*

Never one to eat his words, Newt Gingrich is nonetheless being fed replay after replay of the famous ABC News clip in which he confidently declared, "I'm going to be the nominee."

That was Dec. 1. On Wednesday, the morning after Mitt Romney swept five presidential primaries, Gingrich's campaign staff signaled that he would soon officially concede the obvious: Romney is the presumptive Republican presidential candidate.

That Gingrich lasted this long is a testament to… what, exactly? Monomaniacal narcissism? In their yearlong search for a candidate more inspiring than Romney, Republican voters settled only briefly on Gingrich, after Herman Cain and before Rick Santorum.

In the beginning, it seemed not even Gingrich took Gingrich seriously. He left for vacation almost immediately after entering the race last summer, and his senior campaign staff bailed out en masse the day after he returned. But he hung in there. Within days after Cain flamed out, accused of serial sexual harassment, Gingrich was first in the national polls.

By the time Gingrich had won the South Carolina primary Jan. 21, though, Santorum was on his way to becoming the new Not Romney. It didn't hurt that he was also Not Gingrich.

Prone to grandiose pronouncements, especially when describing himself or his campaign, Gingrich likes to call himself a "transformational figure." The translation, per our own Steve Chapman: "Gingrich is not a person with an ego. He's an ego with a person."

That ego came with a lot of personal baggage. There's no point in rehashing it here, except to observe that his rationalization for those bad behaviors bordered on the pathological. "Driven by how passionately I felt about this country, I worked too hard and things happened in my life that were not appropriate," he told the Christian Broadcasting Network weeks before entering the race.

If you love America enough, apparently, you can do anything you want. Or say anything. With Gingrich, this sometimes went beyond harmless free association—moon colony, anyone?—to shameless demagoguery. Gingrich accused President Barack Obama of "Kenyan, anti-colonial behavior" and railed against allowing a mosque at ground zero. He was willing not only to pretend that Obama is to blame for the high price of gas, but to claim that President Gingrich would lower it to $2.50 a gallon. At times he sounded willing to declare war on both Iran and Cuba.

The good news is that voters saw through him. Gingrich was eager to indulge—to exploit, really—the party's irrational but loud outliers. Republicans, by and large, did not take the bait.

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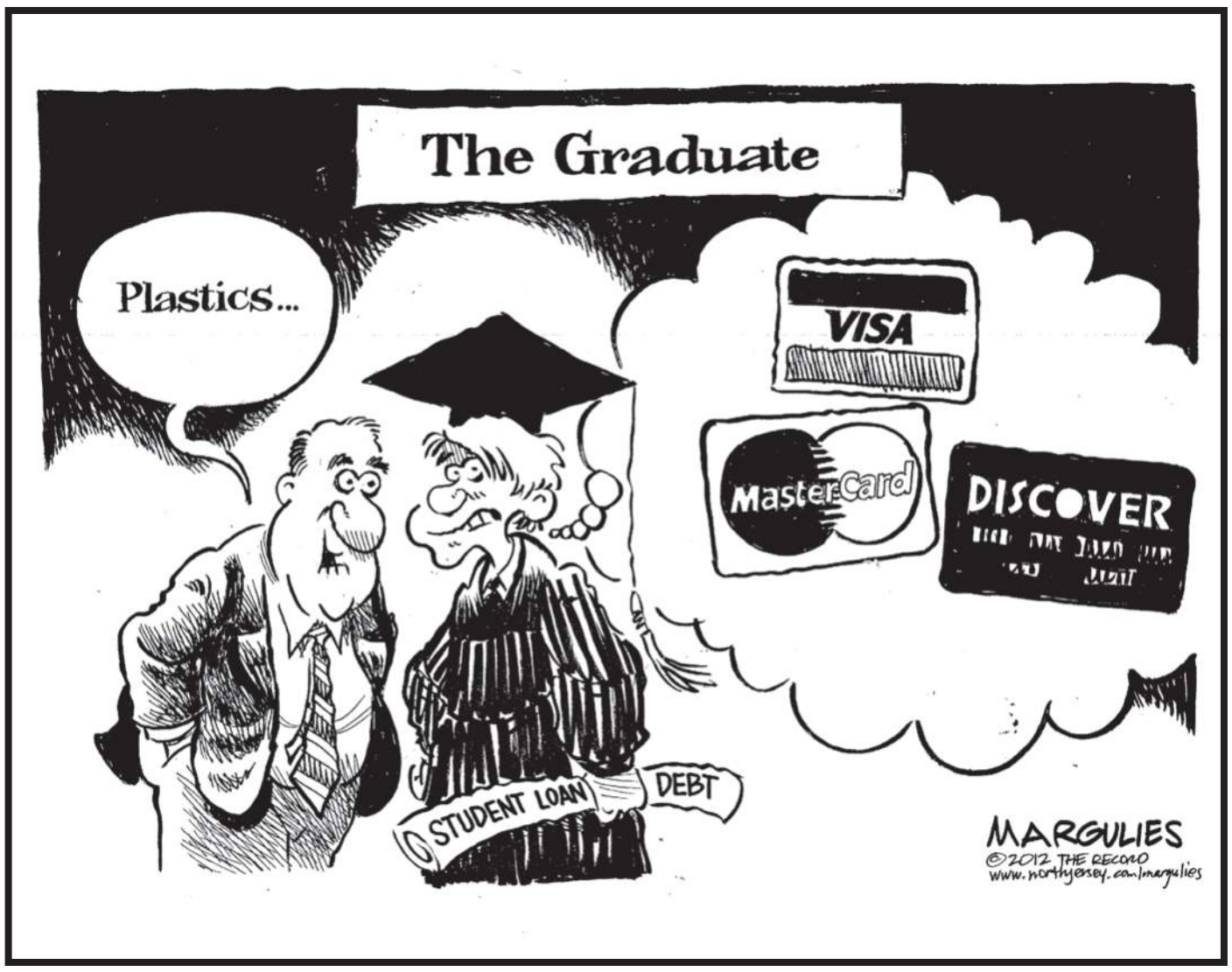


Orchestrating a symphonic spectacle

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

We are quite familiar with the process. We went through a required pre-military training in high school, marched in the sun to practice and perfect precise execution of commands in cadence and unison. What for? For the parade day at the end of the school year, in uniforms, silly!

What was billed as the school's sports meeting (I called it games in my English class) required some setting up, not so much on the athletic events as it was on the opening and closing spectacles. The spectacle of the opening was worth all the prep.

But first, the foreign contingent in the parade to which I belonged. Of the teachers, there were three Australians (Indian, Caucasian, and Chinese), two Hawaiians (a *haole* ex-New Yorker and a *Flip*—me), a bona fide Filipina, a kimono-clad *sensei*, a Belgian (more Belgie than Belgique) married to a Zhongguoren lady who studied in Belgium, and a Hanggul Saram (SoKor). Our Brit, Russkyette, and samurai peace warrior skipped the early morning rise.

Remarkable in the same group were Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, and secular students from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Central Africa, Ceska, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Mauritius, Turkey, and the United States who marched together.

Not so remarkable but understandable was our display of rugged individualism (polite term for an unruly mob). Devoid of the context of service to social harmony, our march into the middle of the field was nothing but unadulterated chaos.

Compared to the Chinese orderly formation and precise march, full of color and symmetry, gracious moves and measured steps, we were a sore sight in the middle of the football field where a speaker's platform was set up and the various contingents occupied their assigned space like spokes on a wheel, save us foreigners who could not keep a straight line if our breakfast depended on it.

But as a part of the spectacle that included the cooing of released doves, colorful kites, festooned balloons, and waving banners, we were garbed in dragon red *kung fu* attire, laughable in my case given the lean demeanor of regular practitioners while I am kin to the current movie *Kung Fu Panda* girth!

The foreign contingent embarrassingly yakked away in their loud discordant tongues, indifferent to decorum as we entered the stadium waving our national colors; we kept to our noise even while the national *Qi Lai* was played and the Chinese flag was raised. Tellingly, we got silent when the internationally recognized Olympic music familiar to network TV blared as the five-ring emblem went up the pole.

The difference in practice and context permeates our misunderstanding of Chinese culture with its deeply rooted moorings on balance and harmony. The athletic events, before they were individual exertions, were representational efforts of the athletes on behalf of their classes who cheered them on with gusto. The issue was not who needed to be ahead of the crowd, but rather the discovery of "one's place in the order of things."

This became clear to me on my way out of the stadium. I chanced on a group photo-op in front of the school auditorium for school officials and visiting dignitaries; 150 Western dark suit-and-tie-attired faculty members were already in place standing on four-tiered platforms that I could easily tumble with a strong Siberian wind.

I lingered to watch how the event was unfolding. At least 10 directors instructed on people's stance in their bright red emblazoned chest banners, suggesting how their bodies might stand slightly sideways to accommodate more people on what was evidently a tight formation. I cringed at the quality of the makeshift scaffolds. But the directors, focused on orchestrating a symphonic spectacle, trusted the component parts to organize the whole.

Then 30 more people appeared 20 minutes later, joined the patiently waiting tableau, occupied their designated places, adjusted face tilts and postured chests when directed, and a facilitator finally took a last look at a sea of faces reminiscent of Lady Gaga's *Poker Face,* resulting in a gracious nod before the cameras started clicking away.

Not to be too strict on dichotomies, but my Western mind is used to managing events by describing "what," scheduling "when," and articulating "why." My Chinese hosts are focused on placement "where," designing the way of "how," and defining "who" played what role. This is not a difference in kind but on emphasis, and what a difference it makes. This, the conduct of the Games and the running of a nation!

China whose population is four times that of the United States, is deeply rooted on social harmony of symphonic spectacles compared to our addictive adulation of individual diversity and rugged disparities. Neither is exclusive of the other but the difference is on the emphasis. Now China yearns for citizens to recognize and practice personal creativity; the U.S. seeks harmony in its federated communities. We will do well to learn the gifts and limitations of one and the other.

From such learning will the new human rise.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dissecting credentials of dinosaurs

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

This being an election year (midterm), it's good to dissect the political intelligence of candidates for a preliminary glimpse into who could succeed as policymakers. We must probe each candidate a bit more critically to ensure that he or she is ready for the task at hand. In short, let's not victimize ourselves by repeating with a rudderless bunch of political dinosaurs.

Essential elements exist to do this, such as intelligence. It provides for reasonable measurement of one's ability to survive and adapt to the environment.

Specifically, political intelligence refers to the ability of a politician to survive, adapt to one's historical, political, and personal environments, and as a result achieve success. There are other constructs but we will stick to something simple and easily understood by most voters. It should give one a clear view if a certain candidate has the wherewithal to work on serious policymaking issues or otherwise. I'd like to engage a process, albeit time consuming, in the interest of benefiting the multitude.

The most important aspect of scholarly intelligence is "verbal potency." Indeed, some folks have a way with words while others don't. While a rich vocabulary, quick wit, and efficient use of words are all impressive and necessary verbal skills, politicians must also be artful enough to speak with powerful metaphors and employ familiar and relevant references (e.g., accurately quoting the Bible). Simultaneously, they must appear passionate, natural, and believable while delivering their message to the public. It's all a matter of fluency and clarity.

The second aspect in scholarly intelligence pertains to "learnedness." Politicians are not expected to be omniscient, meaning having complete or unlimited knowledge, awareness, or understanding; perceiving all things; but a candidate who possesses a reasonable breadth and depth of knowledge about socio-political matters will make a more favorable impression than one who appears ignorant. For example, few doubt Rep. Paul Ryan's comprehensive grasp of the workings of the economy and a broad range of policies. It is here where you make it or break it. Voters are sufficiently intelligent to discern if you have it or not. It is here where you turn into a prospect or fatal statistics.

The last facet is "common sense." Perhaps the most difficult skill to define, it has a "you know it when you see it" quality. Common sense includes the ability to understand complex matters in simple terms, as well as the ability to devise simple solutions to complex problems. Nowhere is this better exemplified than in the IRS tax code's mind-boggling complexity, which we doubt anyone would describe as an example of common sense. Herman Cain's "9-9-9 Plan" and the "Penny Plan" provide contrasting solutions that seek to use common sense. Do you see this aspect in the faces of incumbents or new recruits who have announced plans to run for public office here?

Issues like the economy, scarce resources because of a bad economy, cost of utilities, spiraling cost of healthcare and spikes on basic commodities are very complex issues that challenge candidates to articulate them with appreciable believability. That incumbents (Republicans and Covenant) turn out to be parties of the "do-nothings" is largely the net result of the caliber of policymakers now in office.

By now, most prospects (incumbents and new recruits) could smell death resembling the strange scent of parched grass everywhere or the powerful stench of dead dogs on the public highways run over by careless drivers. It isn't going to be a pleasant trip to the court of public opinion where real scrutiny occurs.

■ ■ ■

Need: A savior or executor?

Juan and Pedro Malas debated what type or leader does the CNMI need given its steady slide into total bankruptcy: A savior or executor.

Said Juan: "We need someone with a vision, integrity and principle who could outline a long-term plan for the islands. That person would have to be a savior."

Pedro said his piece: "I think we'd be better off today with an executor who could get things done for governance today, not tomorrow when it's a day late."

Juan expressed the view that the NMI needs visionaries.

Pedro agreed but offered that people need real answers right now. "In short, our people are struggling to put food on the table; leave stuffy discussions about vision and principle to the maligned elite."

In my view, both answers are correct, though current conditions need an executor to get things done decisively. This is especially needed today, what with the abysmal financial posture of the local government. It's even incapable of buying cheap paper clips. Oooops! We didn't just say that, did we?

But local revenue generation has moved and faded way down south. Would we ever revive investment under current chaotic conditions? Is instability an accepted thing among investors? Isn't this the reason they migrate out of states and places where instability robs them of any meaningful planning for purposes of return on investments? *A` Saina!*

■ ■ ■

Miscellany

What would incumbent Republican and Covenant candidates have to offer after a collective and colossal failure? I mean, seriously do you have concrete answers to reviving the chaotic and disastrous local economy? If so, would such an "off the hip" plan provide sufficient funds for the imperiled retirement program? I'd like to listen to such plans, geared at the long-term survival of the Fund. Are you sufficiently credentialed to even chance discussing such a convoluted concept? Economic revival, anybody?

■ ■ ■

The administration's penchant for "quick fixes" like its plea to retirees to "come to geesuzzzz" isn't going to cut the cake either. The Fund will eventually crater due to the lack of reform and sure-footed seed funding to stand on its own. It's a tough and convoluted issue that has sent municipal and state governments throughout the country soul-searching for answers. The business climate here is very unhealthy. Thus, the anticipated revenue to cushion dry coffers isn't there to do any justice to an imperiled pension.

■ ■ ■

Someone asked what's the difference between Republican and Covenant. Said Magoo, "It's the same person changing shirt." Same difference! "Boot the 'do-nothing' suckers out of office!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Active employees and Chapter 11

To active employees of the DB plan: As you may already know, you *are* the funding mechanism of the Fund. The money that you put into the Fund every payday is supposed to be reserved for your future retirement. Instead it is used to pay current retirement pensions, legal fees, employees (even the current $500-an-hour Boston attorneys). In short, your money is being used for everything but its true intent.

Here is the conundrum the Fund faces: It needs your money to fuel the Fund. At the same time it needs to eliminate you as a possible vested retiree (lessen overall liability).

Here is the big picture in a nutshell: The Fund's overall intent of invoking Chapter 11 is "survivability of the Fund" at all costs. To do that, they will likely try to do two things: 1) reduce benefit payments *up* to 58 percent for current retirees, 2) make it more difficult or impossible for active employees to withdraw their contributions (equal money coming in and equal money going out)

The problem: There isn't enough money in the Fund to ensure that *you* will be able to enjoy the same benefits many of the retirees have already attained.

Additionally, there will *not* be enough workers *below* you to work for you when it is your turn to retire (the Legislature closed the DB plan 2007).

Can you afford to continue paying into the Fund for the next five, 10, 15 years? Do you really think your money will still be there? There is a reason Judge Govendo ordered the Fund to set aside $113 million for your refunds!

To current retirees: We are all connected, it's a small community. In our hearts of hearts, we are rooting for you. The Chapter 11 federal court needs to explore every option to ensure that you continue getting the money that was promised you. They have the power to make the government sell assets, raise taxes, invoke Social Security, etc. But that will only work if you let us go. You see, you can't afford us. Why? Because we are 3,200 people. They can afford to bail you out—but there is no way they can afford to make it work for all of us. On our side, we can't afford to keep paying into a system that we will not benefit from.

Active employees: This is a crucial time for you. Stand up for your rights. If the Chapter 11 court doesn't hear from us, it is more likely to allow us to keep paying into a system that will not benefit us. We need choice—choice to stay in or choice to get out.

Active employees, please come to the American Memorial Park Theater this Tuesday, May 8, at 6:30pm. Goal: We need 3,200 signatures on a petition to the court demanding choice. Can you carry a petition to your agency and gather signatures? Come network with us! If you can help in any way please contact me at jburke@hotmail.com. Thank you for your time,

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

Life after high school for individuals with autism

My wife is tired of being called brave, but being the mother of an autistic man of 18, it can't be avoided. From finding the right doctor to getting the special education system to do right for our son, my wife has always had to be strong—or feign strength.

And still my wife is told that she is special because she is Nicholas' mother. She is referred to as a saint, somehow chosen, but she is not. She is just a mother trying to raise our son to be the best that he can be. She shares the same views, perspectives, and challenges with others like Elaine, Gemma, Paulina, and Bobbie, to name a few.

The other thing that we hear a lot is that Nicholas is an angel, closer to God than others, here to teach us something. No, he's not. He's not some form of puzzle that we're trying to figure out. The adult-services system, or the lack thereof, is the puzzle.

Helping Nicholas have a decent, adult life is our family's greatest challenge. We want him to have a life with something to do: a job or volunteer work; a place to live safely and cared for; days with a rewarding rhythm. These are things we've been working on since he was a teenager—along with his education.

Currently, Nicholas has caring, qualified teachers that work with him on a daily basis. These teachers are responsible for Nicholas' growth. But it isn't the system that has made Nicholas' school years so great. It's the teachers that deserve all the credit. We are thankful for those teachers and teacher aides who have worked with Nicholas throughout the years. Their commitment and dedication is truly appreciated.

Now that Nicholas has transitioned to adulthood, he has a year or two to finish with the PSS Special Education Program. From there he will be transitioning to the far more complex adulthood services. We are searching for funding and applying to qualify for programs that might help Nicholas live as independently as possible. We know we can't afford a staff person, nor will we live forever. If only there was a waiting list for a stable adulthood experience, like those in the U.S., within our own community.

Existing programs such as the CNMI Developmental Disability Council, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities of Northern Marianas College may be available for young adults like Nicholas, but we feel as if that is not enough.

As parents we educate ourselves—we research online and work with other parents, and, of course, with our children's teachers. But we still need professional development. As parents of children with autism, our ultimate challenge is limited resources and programs. There are more and more children coming into the education system than there are resources for them.

Business leaders should also be ready to employ and service our community members with autism. As the rate of autism increases, so does their natural participation in our community. We need to embrace this diversity.

We are blessed to live on an island where family and friends take care of each other. Such is our culture. And with the prevalence of autism increasing, it will take our whole island-family and friends, young and old, to prepare those with autism for a good life. However, there is still so much to do to support these individuals with autism and their families.

The key ingredient to supporting these children and young adults is people who care—people who are willing to stretch their arms with love, and those who are willing to advocate. I urge everyone to embrace those with autism, and to take time out to support our brothers and sisters with disabilities in becoming active and productive citizens. With your knowledge and help, we may be able to work together to improve the system for every individual with autism.

Francisco D. Cabrera
San Vicente, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

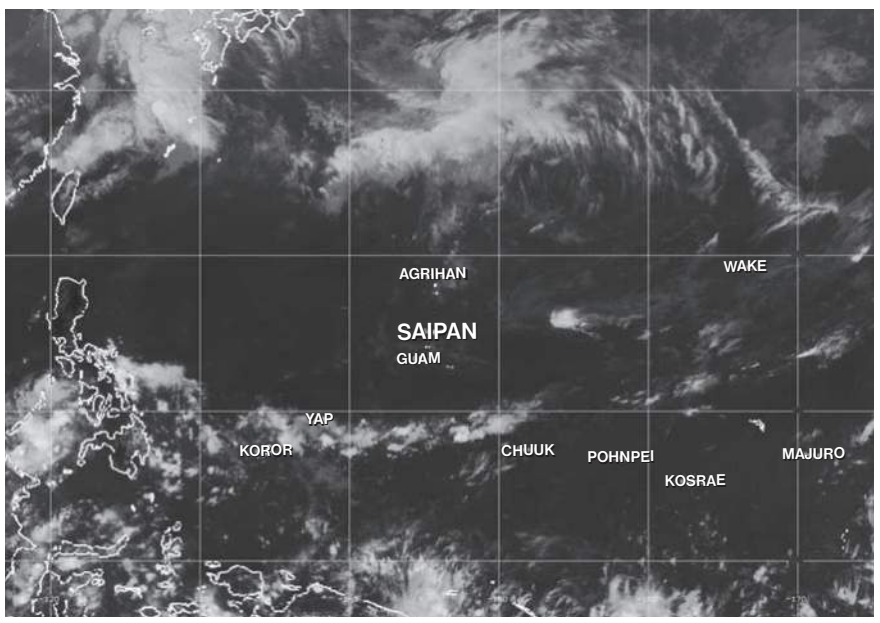
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲60	▼48
Beijing	Sunny	▲83	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼70
London	Showers	▲58	▼47
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼83
Melbourne	Rain	▲57	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲77	▼73
New York	Showers	▲72	▼53
Osaka	Rain	▲68	▼62
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼46
Pusan	Rain	▲67	▼57
Rome	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼50
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼56
Tokyo	Rain	▲67	▼62
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲83	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line extends east-northeastward from 15N150E through a circulation centered at 18N173E to beyond the date line at 22N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found south of Wake Island along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Another shear line heads eastward from 8N131E to end at 9N151E. Cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present just north of Koror and just south of Yap along and up to 140 miles north of this boundary. A surface trough stretches northward from 2N176E to 7N176E. Scattered showers are occurring southeast of Majuro between the equator and 5N from 175E to 178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
5:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:34 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:40 PM	2:18 AM
Thursday	3:38 PM	3:02 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	5:41 PM	4:38 AM
Sunday	6:47 PM	5:32 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

Delta buys refinery in a bid to cut its fuel bill

By JOSHUA FREED
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Delta Air Lines is doing what anybody with a huge gas bill dreams of doing—buying an oil refinery to make its own fuel.

Delta said Monday that it will pay $150 million for a refinery near Philadelphia that is being sold by division of ConocoPhillips. It's aiming to slice $300 million a year from its jet fuel bill.

Jet fuel is the refinery product that garners the fattest profit margin, "and they're taking it from airlines," Delta CEO Richard Anderson said.

It's the first time that an airline has taken such a bold step to control escalating fuel costs. But it doesn't come without risks. Fuel refining is volatile and expensive business.

"If this works, you're going to see everybody doing it," said Ray Neidl, an airline analyst with the Maxim Group.

Delta can't just buy the refinery and pump out nothing but jet fuel. Refining crude oil yields different products—including diesel fuel, gasoline, and jet fuel—at different points in the process.

But Delta did say it plans to spend $100 million to modify the refinery in Trainer, Pa., to maximize the amount of jet fuel it produces. Jet fuel is currently 14 percent of the refinery's output, according to Delta. It plans to boost that to 32 percent.

Here's how it will work: Delta subsidiary Monroe Energy LLC will buy and run the refinery and will get crude oil from BP PLC. The refinery has access to pipelines that can take jet fuel to New York, where Delta has hubs at LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy airports.

The gasoline, diesel fuel and other products the refinery makes will be swapped with BP and the ConocoPhillips division, Phillips 66, for jet fuel to be delivered to Delta elsewhere in the U.S. Delta aims to fill 80 percent of its U.S. fuel needs this way.

But refining, the practice of taking crude oil and turning it into fuels, is notorious for boom-and-bust cycles. ConocoPhillips and other oil giants are getting out of the business because it hasn't been consistently profitable.

Refineries are paying high prices for oil, particularly on the East Coast, where they import a lot of more-expensive oil. At the same time, demand for gasoline has fallen because of the weak economy and cars getting more miles per gallon.

AP
This Thursday, April 19, 2012 file photo shows the ConocoPhillips refinery in Trainer, Pa., near Philadelphia.

As a refinery owner, Delta will still need that more-expensive crude oil to make jet fuel.

"This business is not without risk," said Ben Brockwell, pricing director at the Oil Price Information Service. "But they thought this is a risk they're willing to take."

Delta said environmental cleanup risks previous to its ownership stay with the refinery's previous operator.

Airlines have been trying to combat rising fuels cost by purchasing more fuel-efficient airplanes and experimenting with different types of fuels. But neither is an immediate solution; it can take a decade to modernize an entire fleet and biofuels, which are made from plants, are not economically feasible.

Airlines also try to limit their exposure to big price spikes through a process known as hedging. The catch: if prices fall dramatically, they end up losing a lot of money.

The price of crude oil itself can be hedged through financial bets. But the price of refining it into jet fuel can't be hedged, noted Anderson, Delta's CEO.

But considering that airlines have struggled to be profitable, "I actually think this is a lot less risky than buying 50 new airplanes and spending $2.5 billion in new capital" to expand the fleet, he said. The returns will be better this way—Delta is getting an asset that he estimated to be worth $1 billion. Fuel has become the largest and most volatile expense for most airlines, including Delta. Its planes burned 3.9 billion gallons of fuel last year, costing it $11.8 billion—36 percent of its operating expenses.

With a capacity to refine 185,000 barrels per day of oil, the Trainer refinery is the third-biggest of 12 East Coast refineries, according to the Energy Information Administration. Two were idled in 2010, and two more, including Trainer, were idled late last year. Conoco said it would close it for good if it didn't find a buyer.

'401(k) balances grew average 8 pct in Q1'

BOSTON (AP)—Employee 401(k) accounts grew nearly 8 percent last quarter as a surging stock market boosted investment returns and worker contributions increased.

Fidelity Investments, the nation's largest 401(k) administrator, said on Tuesday that the average balance among its nearly 12 million accountholders was $74,600 at the end of March. That's up from $69,100 at the end of 2011.

Fidelity attributed about 80 percent of the increase to investment performance. Stocks rallied nearly 13 percent, the market's best first-quarter performance since 1998. A broad bond market index rose just 0.3 percent.

The rest of the average 401(k) balance increase was the result of increased savings by workers as well as matching contributions from their employers.

Fidelity's 401(k) participants set aside an average $5,810 through paycheck deductions for the 12-month period ended March 31, and employers kicked an additional $3,360. Both numbers are slightly higher than they were a year ago.

The average employee contribution has remained steady at around 8 percent of annual pay for the past three years, says Beth McHugh, vice president of market insights at Boston-based Fidelity.

But saving rates are beginning to tick upward. Nearly 10 percent of Fidelity 401(k) participants increased their contribution rate in the first quarter, while roughly 4 percent decreased it.

Investment earnings and contributions can grow tax-free in an employer-sponsored 401(k) account, which is a key reason why they're a popular way to save for retirement.

The rise in 401(k) account balances comes as a relief after the average remained largely unchanged in 2011. Although worker and employer contributions increased last year, those gains were offset by factors including investment performance, and mutual fund fees. Account balances are now at their highest level since Fidelity began tracking the data in 1998.

US consumer spending slowed in March, income rose

WASHINGTON(AP)—Americans increased their spending more slowly in March, a sign that scant pay increases may be causing consumers to become more cautious.

Their spending rose 0.3 percent last month, just one-third the increase in February.

Slow wage growth and softer consumer spending gains are the latest evidence that the economy might be weakening after a strong first two months.

Economists say a warm winter made the economy look better because it caused some activity that normally occurs in spring—from hiring to home sales—to occur in January and February. That made March's gain smaller.

A more troubling factor in the long run is that Americans are receiving little or no pay raises. "Real" income—income adjusted for inflation—has been growing too slowly to sustain healthy increases in consumer spending, many economists say.

After-tax income rose just 0.6 percent in the first three months of 2012 compared with a year earlier. That was the smallest gain in two years. "Real incomes will need to grow at a faster rate to prevent consumption growth from slowing," said Paul Dales, senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics.

AP
In this Nov. 25, 2011 file photo, shoppers scramble for door buster deals at Target, in Bowling Green, Ky.

Before the Great Recession, a healthy gain in consumer spending was between 5 percent and 6 percent a year. March's increase was roughly half that pace.

And if income, adjusted for inflation, continued to grow at March's rate, the annual growth would be roughly 2.5 percent. While that's better than a decline, economists consider it a weak figure.

The U.S. economy depends on consumer spending for roughly 70 percent of activity. Many people have been increasing their spending by saving less.

For the full January-March quarter, consumer spending rose at an annual rate of 2.9 percent, the fastest pace in more than a year. The increase was a bright spot in an otherwise sluggish quarter. Dales noted that spending in January and February drove the quarterly increase.

Without better pay, that trend isn't sustainable. The savings rate edged up to 3.8 percent in March, after dropping to a 30-month low of 3.7 percent of after-tax income in February. And income, adjusted for inflation, inched up just 0.2 percent after declining for two straight months.

In the January-March quarter, the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.2 percent. That was down from a 3 percent annual growth rate in the October-December period. The weakness mainly reflected slower gains in government spending and weaker business investment.

An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending rose a modest 0.2 percent in March. Over the past 12 months, the index has risen just above the Federal Reserve's 2 percent inflation target

A healthy job market could reinvigorate consumers because more jobs mean more money to s(pend. But the economy created just 120,000 jobs in March—half the pace of the previous three months.

Economists predict that employers will have added 163,000 jobs this month, below the pace from December through February.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
13,213.63	1,397.91	3,046.36
-14.68	-5.45	-22.84
-0.11%	-0.39%	-0.74%

EXCHANGE RATES
In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9582	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7586	Philippine Peso	42.3370
British Pound	0.6150	Indian Rupee	53.2765	Singapore Dollar	1.2372
Canadian Dollar	0.9835	Indonesian Rupiah	9,267.8	South Korean Won	1,131.8
Chinese Yuan	6.3143	Japanese Yen	80.0641	Swiss Franc	0.9078
Euro	0.7556	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0369	Taiwan Dollar	29.2056
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2191	Thailand Baht	30.8166

Nation

AP: US not reporting all Afghanistan attacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The military is under-reporting the number of times that Afghan soldiers and police open fire on American and other foreign troops.

The U.S.-led coalition routinely reports each time an American or other foreign soldier is killed by an Afghan in uniform. But The Associated Press has learned it does not report insider attacks in which the Afghan wounds—or misses—his U.S. or allied target. It also doesn't report the wounding of troops who were attacked alongside those who were killed.

Such attacks reveal a level of mistrust and ill will between the U.S.-led coalition and its Afghan counterparts in an increasingly unpopular war. The U.S. and its military partners are working more closely with Afghan troops in preparation for handing off security responsibility to them by the end of 2014.

In recent weeks an Afghan soldier opened fire on a group of American soldiers but missed the group entirely. The Americans quickly shot him to death. Not a word about this was reported by the International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, as the coalition is formally known. It was disclosed to the AP by a U.S. official who was granted anonymity in order to give a fuller picture of the "insider" problem.

AP

An Army carry team carries the transfer case containing the remains of Army Pfc. Christian R. Sannicolas of Anaheim, Calif., upon arrival at Dover Air Force Base, Del. on Monday, April 30, 2012.

ISAF also said nothing about last week's attack in which two Afghan policemen in Kandahar province fired on U.S. soldiers, wounding two. Reporters learned of it from Afghan officials and from U.S. officials in Washington. The two Afghan policemen were shot to death by the Americans present.

Just last Wednesday, an attack that killed a U.S. Army special forces soldier, Staff Sgt. Andrew T. Brittonmihalo, 25, of Simi Valley, Calif., also wounded three other American soldiers. The death was reported by ISAF as an insider attack, but it made no mention of the wounded—or that an Afghan civilian also was killed.

The attacker was an Afghan special forces soldier who opened fire with a machine gun at a base in Kandahar province. He was killed by return fire.

That attack apparently was the first by a member of the Afghan special forces, who are more closely vetted than conventional Afghan forces and are often described by American officials as the most effective and reliable in the Afghan military.

Coalition officials do not dispute that such non-fatal attacks happen, but they have not provided a full accounting.

The insider threat has existed for years but has grown more deadly. Last year there were 21 fatal attacks that killed 35 coalition service members, according to ISAF figures. That compares with 11 fatal attacks and 20 deaths the previous year. In 2007 and 2008 there were a combined total of four attacks and four deaths.

ISAF has released brief descriptions of each of the fatal attacks for 2012 but says similar information for fatal attacks in 2011 is considered classified and therefore cannot be released.

Jamie Graybeal, an ISAF spokesman in Kabul, disclosed Monday in response to repeated AP requests that in addition to 10 fatal insider attacks so far this year, there have been two others that resulted in no deaths or injuries, plus one attack that resulted in wounded, for a total of 13 attacks. The three non-fatal attacks had not previously been reported.

Obama: Marking bin Laden death isn't 'celebration'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama gave a steely defense of his handling of the raid that killed Osama bin Laden and his use of it to burnish his re-election credentials a year later, saying Monday that it is appropriate to mark an anniversary that Republicans charge is being turned into a campaign bumper sticker.

He then jumped at the chance to portray presumed Republican presidential challenger Mitt Romney as unprepared to make the kind of hard call required to send U.S. forces on that highly risky mission. Without mentioning Romney by name, Obama recommended looking at people's previous statements on the manhunt for the 9/11 mastermind.

Obama's re-election team has seized on a quote from Romney in 2007, when he said it was not worth moving heaven and earth to go after one person. On Monday, Romney said he "of course" would have ordered bin Laden killed, but his campaign criticized Obama for turning the successful death raid to political gain.

"I assume that people meant what they said when they said it," Obama said at a White House news conference. "That's been at least my practice. I said that I'd go after bin Laden if we had a clear shot at him, and I did. If there are others who have said one thing and now suggest they'd do something else, then I'd go ahead and let them explain it."

Obama is using the May 2 anniversary to help maximize a political narrative that portrays him as bold and decisive. Romney has sought to cast Obama as weak and too quick to compromise on other foreign policy matters, including Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Obama and his national security team will be featured in an NBC prime-time special Wednesday night that reconstructs the operation from inside the White House Situation Room. White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan discussed Obama's command of the raid on a Sunday talk show and in a speech Monday.

"The death of bin Laden was our most strategic blow yet against al-Qaida," Brennan said at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington.

Credit goes to the special forces who carried out the raid and the intelligence experts who led them to the hideout, Brennan said, "and to President Obama, who gave the order to go in."

Number of US newborns with drug withdrawal triples

CHICAGO (AP)—Less than a month old, Savannah Dannelley scrunches her tiny face into a scowl as a nurse gently squirts a dose of methadone into her mouth.

The infant is going through drug withdrawal and is being treated with the same narcotic prescribed for her mother to fight addiction to powerful prescription painkillers.

Disturbing new research says the number of U.S. babies born with signs of opiate drug withdrawal has tripled in a decade because of a surge in pregnant women's use of legal and illegal narcotics, including Vicodin, OxyContin and heroin, researchers say. It is the first national study of the problem.

The number of newborns with withdrawal symptoms increased from a little more than 1 per 1,000 babies sent home from the hospital in 2000 to more than 3 per 1,000 in 2009, the study found. More than 13,000 U.S. infants were affected in 2009, the researchers estimated.

The newborns include babies like Savannah, whose mother stopped abusing painkillers and switched to prescription methadone early in pregnancy, and those whose mothers are still abusing legal or illegal drugs.

Weaning infants from these drugs can take weeks or months and often requires a lengthy stay in intensive care units. Hospital charges for treating these newborns soared from $190 million to $720 million between 2000 and 2009, the study found.

The study was released online Monday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Savannah is hooked up to heart and oxygen monitors in an Oak Lawn, Ill., newborn intensive care unit. In a pink crib, she sleeps fitfully, sometimes cries all night, and has had diarrhea and trouble feeding—typical signs of withdrawal. Some affected babies also have breathing problems, low birth weights and seizures.

It nearly breaks her young mother's heart.

"It's really hard, every day, emotionally and physically," said Aileen Dannelley, 25. "It's really hard when your daughter is born addicted."

Doctors say newborns aren't really addicted—which connotes drug-seeking behavior that babies aren't capable of—but their bodies are dependent on methadone or other opiates because of their mothers' use during pregnancy. Small methadone doses to wean them off these drugs is safer than cutting them off altogether, which can cause dangerous seizures and even death, said Dr. Mark Brown, chief of pediatrics at Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Wife of Edwards aide breaks down while on witness stand

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—The wife of an ex-aide to John Edwards broke down on the witness stand Monday as she recounted how the candidate asked the couple to hide an affair he was having and justified using wealthy donors' money to do it.

Testifying at Edwards' campaign corruption trial, Cheri Young said she huddled around a phone in her Chapel Hill home during December 2007 with her husband, Andrew Young, and Edwards' pregnant mistress, Rielle Hunter.

On the call, Edwards emphasized the need to preserve his campaign and keep the affair from his cancer-stricken wife, Elizabeth, Cheri Young said. It was a couple weeks before the 2008 Iowa caucuses, and two suspicious tabloid reporters had already tracked Hunter from a doctor's appointment to the Youngs' home.

Edwards made the plan sound "as if it was for the good of the country," Cheri Young said.

Asked by a prosecutor why she went along with it, Young put her hands together, pressed them to her chin and bowed her head as if in prayer. As she began to weep, U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Eagles dismissed the jury to give her time to compose herself.

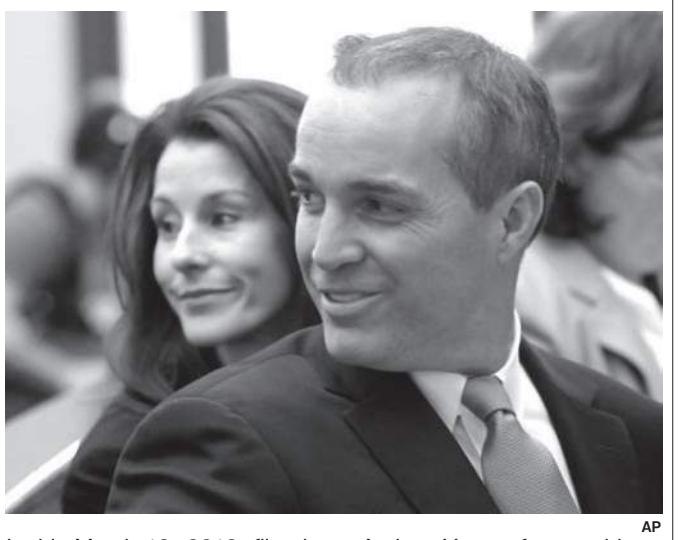
About 25 feet away, Edwards sat back in his chair and put two fingers to his pursed lips. As Young dabbed her tears with a tissue, the former U.S. senator glanced at his watch.

Once the jury returned, Young answered the question.

"I felt like everything had been dumped in my lap," she said. "Everybody was on board but me. ... I didn't want the campaign to explode and for it to be my fault. I ultimately decided to live with a lie."

During the call, Edwards suggested that it would only be a one-day story if Andrew Young took responsibility for the baby. "'Nobody cares about two staffers having an affair,'" Young recalled Edwards saying.

Hunter had earlier been paid as a videographer by one of the organizations linked with Edwards, who is accused of deliberately using money from two wealthy donors to hide Hunter as he sought the White House.



AP

In this March 12, 2010, file photo, Andrew Young, former aide to former Sen. John Edwards, and his wife, Cheri, appear during a hearing at the Chatham County Superior Court House in Pittsboro, N.C.

Asia

Running blind: Chinese activist's dramatic escape

BEIJING (AP)—Chen Guangcheng's blindness was a help and a hindrance as he made his way past the security cordon ringing his farmhouse.

He knew the terrain—he had explored his village in rural China as a blind child and moved as easily in darkness as in daylight. He was alert for the sounds of people, cars and the river he would have to cross.

But he stumbled scores of times, arriving bloody at a meeting point with a fellow dissident—the first of an underground railroad of supporters who eventually escorted him to safety with U.S. diplomats.

A self-taught lawyer who angered authorities by exposing forced abortions, Chen is now presumed to be under U.S. protection, most likely in the fortress-like American Embassy in Beijing. Details of his improbable escape—making his way last week through fields and forest, then being chased by security agents in Beijing—are emerging in accounts from the activists who helped him. Chen and his family had been harassed and kept under house arrest since the summer of 2005, except for a four-year period when Chen was jailed on charges of disrupting traffic and restrictions were eased on his wife and daughter. The couple's young son lives with his mother's sister.

After Chen's release in September 2010, the family was again placed under house arrest, their movements severely restricted, with even 6-year-old daughter Kesi subjected to searches when she came home from school. Chen and his wife, Yuan Weijing, were beaten several times.

The 41-year-old activist hatched his escape plan months ago with a simple idea—he would just lie still, said Bob Fu, founder of the Texas-based rights group ChinaAid and one of a handful of people to speak to Chen since he fled his village.

For weeks on end, Chen stayed in bed, saying he was too feeble to rise.

In fact, Chen wasn't well; his stomach was bothering him as it had for years. But he exaggerated his condition to lull the guards into a sense of complacency.

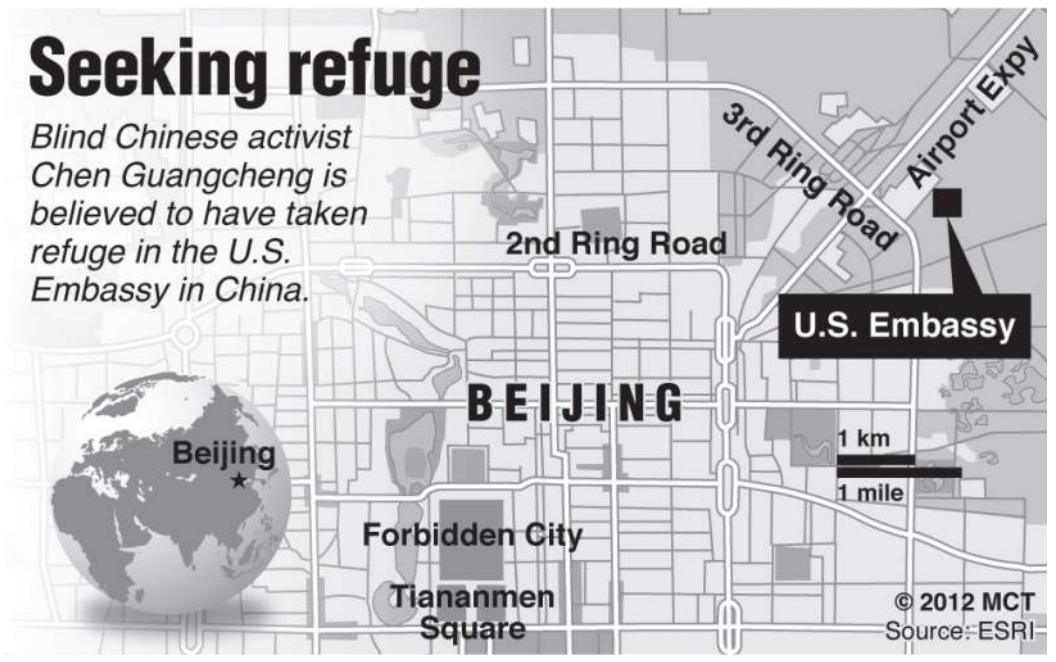
The ruse worked. The guards didn't look in on him constantly, assuming he was still bedridden, and when he escaped under cover of darkness, it took three days for them to notice.

"He did a darn good job. ... He prepared for months, at least two months," Fu said. "He didn't really move much, just laying in bed and making the impression that he couldn't move."

The night was cool with just a sliver of crescent moon in the sky on April 22 when Chen slipped out of his farmhouse in eastern China's Shandong province. Blinded by fever as a child, Chen grew up exploring the nearby cornfields and dirt paths sightless, so he had his bearings.

AP

In this photo taken in late April, 2012, and released by Zeng Jinyan, blind Chinese legal activist Chen Guangcheng is seen at an undisclosed location in Beijing during a meeting with human rights activists Hu Jia and Zeng Jinyan.



It wasn't the first time he had run away from Dongshigu village and his bitter, nearly decade-long feud with local officials.

In 2005, Chen, his wife and a friend made a dash out of the village, running through a cornfield to evade guards. He and his friend got all the way to Beijing, where they met with diplomats and journalists, but his wife was captured. Days later, Chen was seized by security guards on the streets of the capital and returned to house arrest.

On that brief escape he had been helped by his sighted friend; this time Chen was alone.

He followed a path to a field and from there took a road he knew would lead him to a narrow river. After crossing it, he entered a wooded area that gave way to less familiar territory, ground that continually tripped him up. He fell at least 200 times, he would tell his supporters.

He walked for hours, trying to put as much distance between himself and his heavily guarded home as possible before daring to slip a battery into his mobile phone and call He Peirong, a Nanjing-based English teacher-turned-activist who had promised to help. She was waiting with a car.

When she finally found him, Chen was wet, covered in mud and blood, and had numerous cuts and bruises.

"He was in very unbelievable shape when he was picked up," said Fu, citing a conversation with He. Chen "was trembling, was physically weak. ... But he was determined to escape from that miserable condition."

Fu said Chen took a few days to recuperate before making a video appeal.

Uploaded to YouTube and Boxun.com five days after Chen's escape, it showed the blind activist wearing a Nike windbreaker and his trademark black sunglasses, looking relaxed and sounding strong. In it, he pleaded with Premier Wen Jiabao to punish the local authorities who had subjected Chen and his family to 20 months of house arrest, repeatedly beating them.

It was apparently taped in Beijing after He drove Chen north and handed him off to another activist, who brought him to the capital.

He herself was detained Friday by police. Hours before, she told The Associated Press she had been in contact with Chen's relatives, who told her that when the local village chief discovered Chen was gone, "he was furious."

They beat Chen's wife, his brother and his adult nephew, she said.

In Beijing, Chen was mainly aided by Guo Yushan, founder of a think tank set up in 2007 in the capital's university district.

Indian ferry capsizes; 41 dead and 150 missing

GAUHATI, India (AP)—An overcrowded ferry boat capsized in heavy winds and rain in remote northeastern India late Monday, killing at least 41 people and leaving at least 150 others missing, police said.

Divers and rescue workers with rubber rafts scoured the Brahmaputra River early Tuesday in the search for survivors amid the floating debris, which was all that remained of the ferry.

A passenger, Hasnat Ali, told local television that about 200 people were packed inside the boat along with cargo. He was riding on the roof along with about 150 other people when a storm hit as the boat was heading to the shore to dock. The boat was tossed about and many of those on the roof were thrown off and managed to swim to shore before the ferry was dashed to pieces, he said.

He managed to cling to a log and was later rescued by local villagers, he said.

Assam state police chief J.N. Choudhury said the 150 people traveling on the top level were saved.

But 41 bodies have been found and rescuers are searching for at least 150 people who are missing, police said.

Choudhury said the accident occurred near Fakiragram in west Dhubri district, about 350 kilometers (215 miles) west of the state capital, Gauhati, and close to where the river enters Bangladesh. He said officials in that country had been contacted for help.

The area is dotted with riverside settlements and small islands, and boats are the most common mode of transport. Most ferries are overcrowded, with little regard for safety regulations.

Strong winds and rain likely caused the accident, Choudhury said. Police and paramilitary soldiers were sent to help local villagers with rescue efforts, he said.

Mohan Lal, a senior officer with the Border Security Force, said 35 troops were at the accident site on boats and were using hand-held searchlights. He said a team of federal rescue workers was also on its way.

Lal said troops had located the upturned and broken pieces of the boat but were unable to lift them without a crane.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh issued a statement expressing shock and grief at the loss of life.

Suu Kyi, her party to attend parliament Wednesday

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Aung San Suu Kyi said she and other lawmakers in her opposition party will attend Myanmar's parliament on Wednesday for the first time and will take the oath of office though they still fiercely dispute its wording.

Suu Kyi said she was not backing down on the issue, however, and that her party would continue to seek constitutional change through legislative actions. The oath is part of the constitution, and her party also seeks to change other statutes it considers undemocratic.

"Politics is an issue of give and take," she told reporters in the main city, Yangon, on Monday. "We are not giving up, we are just yielding to the aspirations of the people."

■ ■ ■

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged the international community on Monday to lift its sanctions on Myanmar to support democratic reforms and to substantially increase aid for the country's development.

Ban said in a speech to parliament that the world should match the ambitions of the country's people for democracy and change.

But he also urged Myanmar to deal with "difficult issues" including the resettlement of displaced communities, security guarantees for ethnic and political groups and the release of all political prisoners.

Ban has said he is visiting Myanmar now because there is "an unprecedented opportunity" to help democratic change at this "critical moment."

■ ■ ■

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy object to phrasing in the oath that obligates them to "safeguard the constitution," which was drafted under military rule and ensures the army inordinate power.

The party wants "safeguard" replaced with "respect," a change made in other laws including electoral legislation that enabled Suu Kyi's party to officially enter politics for the first time in decades. But their failure to take up their seats had irked some of Suu Kyi's backers, who are eager to see the person who has stood up to Myanmar's military for 23 years finally take her place in the legislature.

The apparent resolution of the deadlock came as U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was visiting Myanmar to encourage democratization and reform.

Ban told reporters he respected Suu Kyi's decision.

"I'm sure that this will contribute very positively," he said.

World

Fresh attacks target symbols of Syrian state power

BEIRUT (AP)—In fresh attacks on symbols of state power, twin suicide bombs exploded Monday near a government security compound in northern Syria and rockets struck the central bank in Damascus, killing nine people and wounding 100.

The regime and the opposition traded blame, accusing each other of dooming a United Nations plan to calm violence that has largely failed so far. The head of the U.N. observer mission acknowledged that his force cannot solve the country's crisis alone and urged both sides to stop fighting.

The attacks are the latest in a series of suicide bombings that started in December and have mostly targeted Syrian military and intelligence positions.

The regime routinely blames the opposition, which denies having a role or the capability to carry out such attacks. After other similar bombings, U.S. officials suggested al-Qaida militants may be joining the fray, and an al-Qaida-inspired Islamist group has claimed responsibility for previous attacks in Syria.

The powerful blasts, which blew two craters in the ground and ripped the facade off a multistory building, came a day after Maj. Gen. Robert Mood, the head of the observer mission, took up his post in Damascus.

"Ten, 30, 300 or 1,000 observers will not solve all problems," he told reporters Monday. "So everyone has to help us achieve this mission."

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, a Syrian man, left, stands in front of a building that was damaged after two bombs exploded near a military compound, in the city of Idlib, northwestern Syria, Monday, April 30, 2012.

More than 9,000 people have been killed in the 13-month crisis, according to the U.N.

An April 12 cease-fire agreement has helped reduce violence, but fighting persists, and U.N. officials have singled out the Syrian regime as the main aggressor.

An advance team of 16 U.N. observers is on the ground to try to salvage the truce, which is part of a broader plan by special envoy Kofi Annan to launch talks between President Bashar Assad and his opponents. By mid-May, the team is to grow to 100, but U.N. officials have not said when a full 300-member contingent is to be deployed.

Monday's bombs went off in the northern city of Idlib, an opposition stronghold that government troops recaptured in a military offensive earlier this year. TV footage of the aftermath from the blasts showed torn flesh, burned-out cars, twisted debris and pavement stained with blood. The force of the explosions shattered windows and sent debris flying for hundreds of meters (yards).

"Is this their freedom?" one man yelled at the cameras at one of the blast sites.

A distraught woman shouted: "What have we done to those people? What have women, children and the elderly done to them?"

The state-run news agency SANA said security forces and civilians were among those killed. State TV said that many of the nearly 100 wounded were civilians.

The bombers detonated their explosives near a military compound and near Idlib's Carlton Hotel, SANA said.

A local activist, who only gave his first name, Ibrahim, for fear of repercussions, said the two sites bombed in Idlib are several hundred meters apart and that the explosions went off within five minutes of each other after daybreak Monday.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks. State media blamed "armed terrorists," a term it uses for rebels trying to topple the government. Activists claimed the regime was behind the bombings to discredit the opposition.

A statement by the Local Coordination Committees activist network called the series of suicide blasts "fabricated, staged explosions" and said "they can no longer fool anyone."

Two members of the U.N. observer team toured the site of the bombings, SANA said. Ibrahim said the observers have been staying at the Carlton, and a pro-government website reported that the hotel sustained some damage.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned "the terrorist bomb attacks" in Idlib and Damascus, U.N. deputy spokesman Eduardo del Buey said.

Analysts said it was doubtful the presence of U.N. observers would help improve the situation or halt such bombings.

"The U.N. is a political body, not an investigative body. The U.N. creates a political consensus among countries, but it's not a judge and jury about which side violated what agreement," said Jon Alterman, Middle East director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Uganda suggests Joseph Kony getting Sudan support

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Ugandan officials are renewing a claim made with some frequency over the years: That rebel leader Joseph Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army are receiving backing from the government of Sudan.

Ugandan forces commander Gen. Aronda Nyakairima said Monday he found credible a recent report from a captured LRA fighter saying that Kony was recently in the southern region of Sudan.

Col. Felix Kulayigye, the military's spokesman, said some of the LRA rebels captured by the Ugandan military wore "new uniforms" supplied by Sudan, though Nyakairima said military officials have not found LRA fighters with weapons supplied by Sudan.

President Barack Obama sent 100 U.S. forces into Central Africa last year to help regional militaries track Kony, and an online campaign this year by the advocacy group Invisible Children made Kony a YouTube sensation.

"Kony has always been a pawn in the Khartoum chess game over South Sudan. They have used him before and they hope to use him again to destabilize South Sudan," Kulayigye said.

Abdulla Ali Masar, Sudan's information minister, denied his government has ever supported the LRA.

AP

A soldier from the Central African Republic stands guard at a building used for joint meetings between them and U.S. Army special forces, in Obo, Central African Republic, Sunday, April 29, 2012.

"We have no relationship, whatsoever, with this Ugandan rebel and we have not supported and are not supporting him now," Masar said. He said Kony "is nearer to South Sudan than to us and, in any case, we have no reason to support him. We rely on our own forces and we do not need anybody to support us in defending our country and ourselves."

The accusations by Uganda that Sudan is aiding Kony come as the threat of war between Sudan and South Sudan has increased. The two sides have launched multiple cross-border attacks and Sudan has launched airstrikes in recent weeks.

Ugandan officials have long accused Khartoum of supporting the LRA in retaliation for Uganda's support of the rebel movement known as the SPLA, which is now South Sudan's military. South Sudan broke away from Sudan last year after voting for independence.

Okello Oryem, Uganda's foreign affairs minister, told The Associated Press on Monday the LRA would have been long ago eliminated had it not been backed by Sudan.

"It's been universally known that the LRA has been receiving support from elements within the Khartoum government or the Sudan Armed Forces," Oryem said. He said Khartoum still gives Kony medicine, guns and uniforms—"the kinds of things a rebel wants."

Kulayigye said that last week there were reports of Kony's presence in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Ugandan Prime Minister Amama Mbabazi told three U.S. lawmakers who visited with him in the Ugandan capital, Kampala, in early April that Kony may still be getting supplies from Sudan.

"The original plan of Sudan was to use Kony to destabilize the region," he said. "They wanted to use the LRA to attack Chad. Kony was central to this plan ... . Kony still has some assistance, not much; it's covert assistance. "

Ugandan officials are concerned that Kony, whose brutal group has navigated the region's porous borders in a highly successful campaign of murder and the abduction of children, could exploit renewed border tensions between Sudan and South Sudan to get back near Ugandan territory.

Ocean race accidents stun sailors as probe deepens

SAN DIEGO (AP)—For 65 years, sailors have raced 125 nautical miles from Newport Beach, Calif., to Ensenada, Mexico, with expectations of a safe overnight voyage followed by beers at a popular cantina.

Likewise, sailors in the century-old Full Crew Farallones Race off San Francisco would return to the docks jubilant at having mastered winds averaging 10 to 20 knots and churning Pacific Ocean swells that can reach 14 feet.

Death was an afterthought. At least until this spring.

Two weeks after five sailors were killed in the waters off Northern California when their 38-foot yacht was hit by powerful waves and ran aground on a rocky island, the sailing community was stunned again this weekend.

Three sailors were killed and one went missing, their yacht found in pieces near the Mexican border, perhaps in a collision with a large ship in the middle of the night.

The Coast Guard was seeking records of any large ships in the area when the 37-foot Aegean was believed to have been destroyed early Saturday, Lt. Bill Burwell, an agency spokesman, said Monday.

Investigators are also examining the yacht's debris and GPS coordinates and trying to find other race participants who were in the area.

Burwell, a Coast Guard pilot who helped locate the three bodies, said he isn't ruling out that the yacht collided with rocks on Mexico's Coronado Islands. Race organizers say they see no other explanation other than a collision with a larger ship.

"I think equal opportunity should be given to the idea that there wasn't another vessel involved. The evidence doesn't point to that yet, but the evidence doesn't point anywhere," he said.

Eric Lamb, who stumbled on the wreckage Saturday morning while on safety patrol, said debris strewn over 2 square miles looked as if the boat had "gone through a blender"—too small to suggest a collision with rocks. His discovery came about nine hours after the Aegean's last GPS coordinates.

By ocean racing standards, the number of casualties in the two races is startling. Previous major ocean racing disasters have been caused by freak storms, including the one that killed 15 sailors in the Irish Sea in the 1979 Fastnet Race and one that killed six in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart Race.

Gary Jobson, president of the U.S. Sailing Association, said he was "horrified" by the latest accident. "We need to take a step back and take a deep breath with what we're doing. Something is going wrong here," he said. Jobson said he's scheduled to speak by phone with a Coast Guard official in San Francisco on Tuesday to decide on an independent review panel, and then hopes to quickly do the same in San Diego.

Focus

Vets navigate tough new terrain—the job market

By SHARON COHEN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

AP
In this Wednesday, March 28, 2012 file photo, veterans wait to register at a job fair at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York with a military helicopter in the background.

ON THE NET Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America: www.iava.org

Matthew Saldana proved himself in a world where stress, danger and life-and-death decisions were routine. He served one tour in Iraq and a second in Afghanistan. But the Army veteran is having a harder time back home navigating a calmer but uncertain terrain—the job market.

On this spring day, Saldana is roaming the aisles of a noisy ballroom in the Hilton Chicago at a Hiring Our Heroes job fair. Dressed smartly in red tie and black suit, he clutches a leather folder containing his three-page resume, joining hundreds of other vets looking for opportunity and a paycheck.

"It's frustrating trying to get back on track," the 29-year-old Saldana says, his soft voice barely audible in the din of the crowd. "I always thought if I get out the military, I'd be a step up. That's not what it takes. It's who you know."

Saldana, who left the Army in 2004, hasn't worked full time in 18 months. He's scoured "help wanted" listings, taken college courses and earned an emergency medical technician certificate. But he finds himself pigeonholed. "What do you come out with having been an artillery man or in the infantry?" he asks. "The best job you can get is security. That's not what I want to do for the rest of my life."

Saldana's dream is to become a Chicago firefighter—he's been on a waiting list five years. He's survived mostly by working security; he's a fill-in sub at one company and also earns a modest on-call fee as a firefighter-EMT in a southern suburb. "I'm barely pulling through," he says. "I'm drowning. I need to find something fast."

His predicament is shared by tens of thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans facing a rocky transition from the routine and reliability of military life to the volatility and limited job prospects of a nation emerging from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Like many other vets, Saldana misses the Army's anchors: a sense of camaraderie and its steady income. "Here," he says, "you've got to worry about how you're going to find money to eat and how you're going to pay the bills."

And like many vets, he's now trying to find his way in an ultra-tight labor market, competing with millions of unemployed people, some with long resumes and proven records in the civilian workplace. Some vets face even more hurdles: job-hunting skills that are rusty after spending months, or years, in uniform. No college degree. And little exposure to a business culture that has its own language and rules.

"We've had to be entrepreneurial and innovative and think on the fly and manage people and logistics ... we know that we have the skills," says Matthew Colvin, who advises companies on hiring as a member of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. "But it's hard to convey our worth a lot of times because we know it in military terms, not in civilian terms."

"Sometimes we hide the fact that we're veterans," adds Colvin, an Air Force vet of two tours in Afghanistan. "I don't think that's the way it should be. ... We've got more life experience than the kid coming out of college or even the guy who's maybe equally qualified on paper."

Vets aren't the only ones spreading the we-need-work message. Their plight has attracted powerful support from the White House and Capitol Hill to Fortune 500 companies, resulting in tax breaks, job fairs and pledges to hire hundreds of thousands who served.

Colvin says it's too early to gauge the impact of those efforts—some are just getting underway—on a population saddled with high unemployment. In 2011, the jobless level for those who've served since Sept. 11, 2001, was 12.1 percent, compared with 8.7 percent for the non-veteran public, according to federal statistics. Among men 18 to 24 for the veteran group, it was nearly 2 1/2 times higher: 29.1 percent.

In March, 10.3 percent of post-Sept. 11 vets were out of work. Colvin's group surveyed its own members last month and found a nearly 17 percent jobless rate. For those 20 to 24, it was almost 36 percent. Experts say these numbers are likely to grow as more troops return from Afghanistan and hundreds of thousands of people separate from the military over the next five years.

The anemic economy—the very reason some young people enlisted—is considered the main cause. But military and business experts also cite a lack of understanding among some employers of post-traumatic stress and a lack of appreciation for the abilities of returning troops.

"Employers immediately think the trigger part of the military," says T. McCreary, a retired rear admiral and president of Military.com. "They don't know or haven't had exposure to or forget there are a ton of jobs out there that have almost directly transferable skills—heavy equipment operators, machinists, welders, doctors, nurses, medical technicians, pilots, financial managers."

That problem is even greater than it was 40 years ago when more management and company owners had military experience, he says.

McCreary says some vets also struggle getting jobs at home using their specialized wartime skills—treating the wounded or driving big rigs, for instance—because they don't have the medical certification or commercial drivers' licenses required in some states.

Eric Smith is a case in point. In congressional testimony last year, the former Navy corpsman and two-tour Iraq vet detailed his high-pressure experience as a combat medic, heading a team that monitored a 20-bed intensive care unit. But he couldn't find a medical job when he returned.

"In the civilian world, my military education and training did not translate because I didn't have a piece of paperwork saying so," he said. "The resume that I thought would put me ahead of the pack actually put me behind."

Smith, who estimated the Navy spent more than $1 million to train him, described a desperate search to eke out a living, seeking out part-time jobs as a bartender and mail sorter, working as a day laborer, volunteering to be a test patient in drug studies.

He's now working on his EMT certification at a criminal justice academy in Virginia and has a job offer, according to the Iraq and Afghanistan vets' group.

Those kinds of stories have turned the spotlight on vets and accomplished something rare in Washington—bipartisanship.

Last year, Democrats and Republicans overwhelmingly supported a measure that President Barack Obama signed into law that provides tax credits to businesses hiring vets. It allows for up to $5,600 for each veteran unemployed longer than six months and as much as $9,600 for those with service-related disabilities out of work that same length of time.

First lady Michelle Obama, along with the vice president's wife, Jill Biden, recently marked the year anniversary of their own campaign, Joining Forces, to help vets and their spouses, especially with employment. Mrs. Obama also has made a new push for hiring in and around military bases; her program announced in April it has lined up commitments for more than 15,000 jobs in the coming years, most in telemarketing and customer support companies.

The private sector has stepped in, too.

Some are small ventures. For example, Ray Sizer, co-founder of National Energy Solutions in Levittown, Pa., an energy efficient lighting and electrical contractor, says hiring vets is a major priority and he hopes to add 10 or 15 for large projects now lined up.

Sizer, a second-generation Navy vet, points out Levittown, a planned suburban community about 20 miles from Philadelphia, "was built on (World War II) veterans returning home. They all had opportunity. Now they're coming home to what opportunity? There's hardly any."

On a much larger scale, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has established the Hiring Our Heroes program, sponsoring about 150 job fairs around the nation, working closely with about two dozen major employers, as well as thousands of smaller companies.

In March, the chamber, partnering with Capital One, announced a campaign to hire a half million veterans and military spouses by the end of 2014. Several companies have already committed to adding more than 10,000.

Kevin Schmiegel, a Marine vet who founded and heads the program, says many veterans return to communities where they have families and support systems, but where opportunities are scarce. "Most folks leaving the military are really making a decision of the heart rather than go where the jobs are," he says.

That's especially hard on younger vets who enlisted straight from high school and have little or no work history. "A large majority are going into the job market with their eyes closed," he says. "We need to help them make informed decisions" so they know where there are growth industries.

Schmiegel says human resource managers and recruiters also need to be better educated to understand most vets with post-traumatic stress can function fine in the workplace. A 2010 poll conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management found 46 percent of those of those surveyed thought PTSD or other mental health issues could be a challenge when hiring people with military experience.

That survey, of 429 human resource managers, found 60 percent felt the same way about transferring military skills to the civilian workplace.

Caleb Wohlford never expected that problem. He'd been a cargo specialist in Iraq and worked for a cardboard company before deploying, so he figured he'd settle into factory work back home in Kokomo, Ind.

In two years, he found just one job—in construction—but that ended last October when business dried up. After six months of unemployment, an aunt told him about an opening at her factory. He's set to start next week, operating a forklift.

"I honestly didn't think it would be this difficult," Wohlford says. "When you get out of the military, they tell you there are all these people out there begging to give you a job (because you're a vet). There's not anybody. You're in the same race as everybody else. ... It's miserable being out of work."

The timing of his offer couldn't be better. Wohlford says his unemployment had expired, his bills were mounting and he and his wife were stretching her income from selling cosmetics from home to support six kids, ages 7 to 12. They also had no health insurance.

"It's an amazing relief," Wohlford says. "I almost can't wait to take my kids to the eye doctor. Now it won't be so much of a burden."

Wohlford `s success came after he'd applied for more than 100 jobs. He couldn't even get rehired at his old factory, though he says he left on good terms. "I didn't think they owed me that job," he says. "But I don't see how I couldn't meet the requirements. I don't see how anyone could better meet the requirements."

He's grateful, too, for the new opportunity, knowing his family connection was crucial. "I got lucky," he says. "I knew somebody in the right place."

Campus Life

10 gold medals for GCA students

Eight Grace Christian Academy students won a total of 10 gold medals in this school year's forensics (PGFC, NJFL, and NFL) and thespians competitions.

GCA had one gold medal in the K-5th grades Primary Grades Forensic Conference, five in the 6th-8th grades National Junior Forensic League, two in the 9th-12th grades National Forensic League, and another two in the Thespians competition.

Second grader Clerisse Dacumos, who won a gold medal in Impromptu Speaking, will represent GCA in the PGFC special presentation at the end of the school year. This is her second time to win major awards in the PGFC regional completion. She placed 4th in Impromptu Speaking last year.

Angela Cruz, an 8th grader, won two gold medals in the National Junior Forensic League and another two gold medals in Thespians. In NJFL, she won gold in Duo Interpretation and she and her partner Rebekah Kim will represent the CNMI in that event at the national competition. She also won a gold medal in Dramatic Interpretation but the 3rd placer from another school will represent the CNMI in Dramatic Interpretation in the national competition. As a rule, students who bagged more than one gold medal must select the best category he/she will represent in the nationals so next slots will be made available for the silver medal awardees or the next available awardees. The silver medalist in DI is Yujin Lee, another GCA student who will do Story Telling in the national competition. This year marks Cruz's second time in the NJFL national event. She was with the CNMI team in her 7th grade. In Thespians, she and her partner Allexa Go will compete in duet acting and she will be the contender for solo musical theatre in the national competition. She has been competing for Thespians since last year, but this will be her first time to join the Thespians national competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's PGFC, NJFL, NFL, and Thespians regional gold medalists have their picture taken inside the GCA campus.

Of winning four gold medals, Cruz said she was "really shocked and absolutely happy because all the hard work paid off." This is her tenth year at GCA.

Yujin Lee, a 7th grade student, also won two gold medals in NJFL. She won a gold medal in Story Telling and she selected it as her main event in the national competition. She also won a gold medal in Poetry Reading, but the fourth placer from another school will compete in that event because the second and third placers are also from GCA and they will go for Duo Interpretation as their main event at the nationals. This is Lee's second time to represent GCA at the nationals. She has been winning major awards for GCA since second grade.

Rebekah Kim, also an 8th grade student, won a gold medal in Duo Interpretation with partner Angela Cruz. This will be her first time to join the CNMI team at the national competition. Kim has been very active in NJFL since seventh grade.

Asako Camacho, another GCA 8th grade student won in Prose Reading and will represent that event at the national competition. This is her first time to win a gold medal. "I was shocked and cried upon knowing that I won gold medal in my last year in NJFL," Camacho said.

Allexa Go, an 8th grader, will compete with her partner Angela Cruz for Duet Acting in the Thespian Festival national competition. It's her first time to join the local Thespians competition and has been with GCA since K4.

GCA's Terence Ho ruled the Impromptu Speech competition, getting the jurors' unanimous decision and advancing to the nationals. An 11th grader, he has been competing in the forensic arts for four years, but this is his first time to join the CNMI team for the nationals. Upon learning that he won a gold medal, "I thought they said my name by accident or they were just joking, and I was in disbelief."

Angela Mamaril, bagged the gold medal for her impressive performance in Extemporaneous Commentary. This will be her second time to go to the NFL national competition. "I was surprised because I was up against really talented speakers."

All of the six GCA NJFL and NFL students will join the CNMI team to vie for national titles against students from 53 U.S. states and territories in a competition set on June 10-17, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The two Thespians GCA gold medalists will join the other students from public secondary schools who won gold medals in the 2012 thespian regional competition and will represent the Commonwealth in the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 25 through June 30.

All competitions are organized by the National Forensic Board and supported by the CNMI Public School System. PGFC, NJFL, and NFL competitions encourage public and private school students to participate in and become proficient in the forensic arts: reading, debate, public speaking, and interpretations. Thespian events help students expand their artistic capabilities and imagination through stage plays and performances that build character and confidence. ***(GCA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

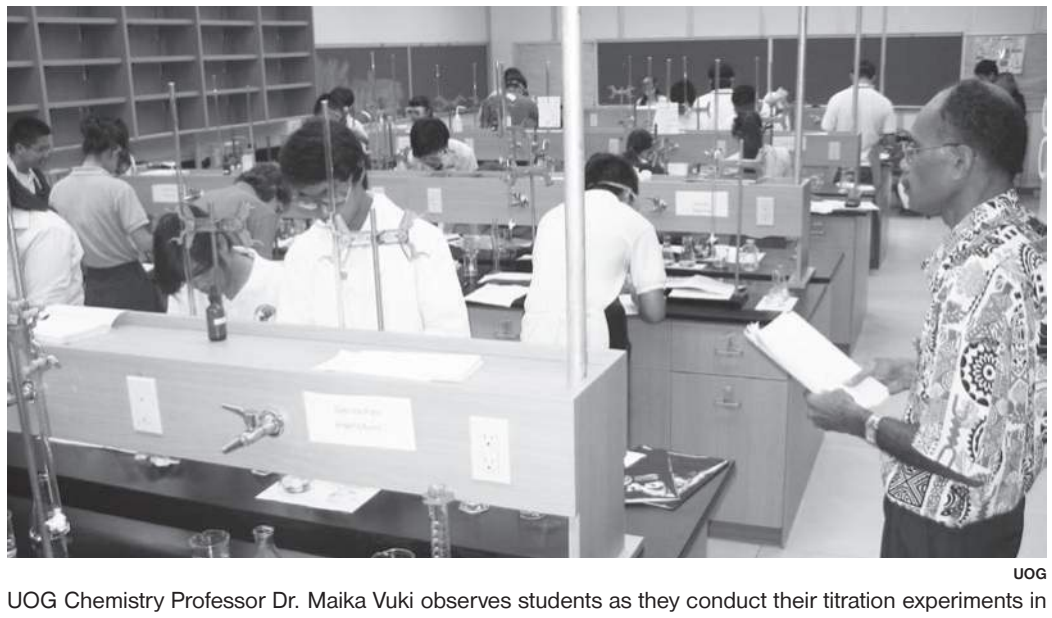
Eucon students have their picture taken with their teachers and school officials at their school campus.

Eucon students excel in PGFC again

Congratulations to Eucon students for winning during the regional PGFC competition that was held last Saturday at San Antonio Elementary School. Participants from different private and public schools were all vying for the top honors but Eucon students' brought home the bacon.

Among the top honors were the following students:

1st, Choral Speaking, Clark Trasmano
1st, Choral Speaking, Luis Tolosa
1st, Choral Speaking, Chan Yang Woo
1st, Choral Speaking, Timothy Montes
1st, Choral Speaking, William Zue
2nd, Dramatic Interp., Dane Hodges
3rd, Humorous Interp., Dane Hodges
4th, Humorous Interp., Allia Pillarina
3rd, Duo Interp., Naveen Lucenara
3rd, Duo Interp., Joanah Jimenez
3rd, Humorous Interp., Jin Seok Park
4th, Dramatic Interp., Victoria Nicole Santos



UOG

UOG Chemistry Professor Dr. Maika Vuki observes students as they conduct their titration experiments in the newly renovated chemistry lab.

UOG chemistry competition first to be held in new lab

The University of Guam Chemistry Titration competition for high school students was recently held at the newly renovated chemistry lab. Teams from John F. Kennedy High School, Guam High, St. John's, St. Thomas Aquinas, Harvest Christian Academy, Father Duenas Memorial School, and Notre Dame participated in the titration contest.

"This is the first activity to be held in the newly renovated chemistry laboratory in the Science Building," said competition organizer Dr. Maika Vuki.

The competition was organized several years ago to introduce the field of chemistry to the island's high school students and to ultimately encourage them to pursue degrees in chemistry at UOG.

Lab renovations amounted to approximately $300,000 and were paid for with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. ***(UOG)***

Griffins are the pride of SAEF School, Kids Cove

Griffins, the nickname of students at Saipan American Education Foundation School, brought home major awards from the Primary Grade Forensic Competition-Regional held at the San Antonio Elementary School on April 21, 2012.

Deirdre Rosete, a 4th grader, got two gold medals, one for Dramatic Interpretation and another for Reader's Forum. Xiao Ling Na Hodson Qian, a 5th grader, got a gold medal in Impromptu.

The 2nd grade group of Alianna Sublemente, Amy Rayn Soliman, Derrick Sese, Christian Troy Rosimo, and Elizabeth Bonto won a silver medal for Choral Speaking.

Bronze medals went to the 5th grade Choral Speaking group of Kassandra Myka Villegas, Maverick Irang, Dondi Ferrer, Curtis Mostales, and Xiao Ling Na Hodson Qian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan American Education Foundation School teachers and coaches have their picture taken with their proud students.

The Choral Speaking team of 5th graders Jeggier Labao, Rejenemhay Jingco, Christian Aldan, and Aaron Pascua won fourth place.

Grace Rosete, Darlene Sobremisana, Rosalie Habijan, Levi Sobremisana, and Criselda Aldan were the coaches.

Those who advanced to the finals are:

K-2 DIVISION

Choral Speaking: John Michael Balgos, Janvien Carlo Pascua, Cyrine May Saulog , and Eddie Valdoz

Duo: Angel Lou Buensallido and Betty Matson

Rohan Nathan De Jesus, and Eli Lumbana

Laurence Raevin Abad & Vladimir Radge Palma

Reader's Forum: Vladimir Radge Palma, Grades 3-5 Division

Impromptu, Christian Aldan, 5th grade

Reader's Forum: Kassandra Myka Villegas, 5th grade

Duo: Aaron Pascua and Dondi Ferrer, 4th & 5th grade

Humorous Interpretation: Curtis Mostales. 5th grade

CAMPUS BULLETIN

ChaCha Ocean View report cards out

This is to inform parents and guardians that ChaCha Ocean View Jr. High School will be issuing the fourth quarter mid-progress reports to your child on May 3. For more information, call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Half-day for KHS students today

Kagman High School will be issuing progress reports today, May 2, 2012, from 3pm to 5pm. Students will be dismissed at 12:45pm. We encourage parents and guardians to pick their child's progress report. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840/3907 or e-mail: kagmanhs@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

SSHS report cards out Thursday

Term 4 mid-progress report is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, May 3, from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be in their classrooms for parents and legal guardians visit. All students will be released at 1:05pm. ***(PR)***

GHIS students win medals, awards in regional forensic competition

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of Golden Harvest International School have their picture taken at their school campus after competing at the recently concluded PGFC Regional.

Students of Golden Harvest International School successfully competed at the recently concluded PGFC Regional, held at the San Antonio Elementary School on April 21, 2012.

Three students—Marione Corpus, Aaron Linus Esquivel, and Vince Salvador—grabbed three gold medals in Choral Speaking; John Isaac San Nicolas won a silver medal in DRAMATIC Interpretation; while Angelo Talens and Fernand Ramos won two bronze medals in Duo Interpretation.

Marione Corpus finished fifth in Duo Interpretation, Amber Sidney Sureta and Tyana Christine Hix won fourth place in Duo Interpretation while Ryan Divino, Angelo Talens, Mark Ibanez, Fernand Ramos, and Mathew Leon Guerrero won fifth place in Choral Speaking.

Also, 11 students from K-2 and 3-5 Divisions made it to the finals.

FINALISTS:

James Venus, Choral Speaking (Kinder5)

Yuri Ferrera, Choral Speaking (Kinder5)

Elisha Lacap, Choral Speaking (Kinder 5)

Mark Chavez, Choral Speaking (Kinder 5)

Gwen Gamab, Choral Speaking (Kinder5)

Amber Sidney Sureta, Duo (1st Grade)

Tyana Christine Hix, Duo (1st grade)

Jude Litulumar, Humorous Interp (1st grade)

Christine Caluya, Dramatic Interp (1st grade)

Hannah Lacap, Dramatic Interp (2nd grade)

Aaron Esquivel, Humorous Interp & Choral Speaking(4th grade)

John Isaac San Nicolas, DI & Reader's Forum (3rd Grade)

Vince Salvador, HI & Choral Speaking (3rd grade)

Marione Corpus, DI & Choral Speaking (4th grade)

Angelo Talens, Duo & Choral Speaking (5th Grade)

Mark Ibanez, DI & Choral Speaking (5th grade)

Mathew Leon Guerrero, Duo & Choral Speaking (5th grade)

Ryan Divino, Duo & Choral Speaking (5th grade)

Fernand Ramos, Duo & Choral Speaking (5th grade)

COACHES/TRAINERS:

Imelda Bautista, K5 trainer/coach; Leonor Marfil, 1st grade trainer/coach; Marilyn Divino, 2nd grade trainer/coach; Aida Lim, 3rd grade coach; Lorelisa Espiritu, 3rd -5th trainer/coach

JUDGES: Flordeliza Flores, Belinda Acosta, Elenita Duarte, Katherine Florita, Amy Ibanez, Anne Divino, Chris Divino

First Year Death Anniversary

In loving memory of

Nicolasa Reyes Quitugua

We, the family humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the passing of our Beloved Nicolasa unto eternal life. Daily masses of intention will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church beginning on Wednesday, May 2, 2012 through the ninth and final day of mass on Thursday, May 10, 2012.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Familia

Life & Style

‘Octomom’ files for bankruptcy, owes $30K in rent

AP

In this May 19, 2010 file photo, “Octomom” Nadya Suleman poses for photos outside her La Habra, Calif., home.

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—”Octomom” Nadya Suleman filed for bankruptcy Monday, saying in a court filing that she has as much as $1 million in debt.

Suleman wants a fresh start and said in a statement that filing for bankruptcy is what’s best for her children, according to the Orange County Register (http://bit.ly/IDaiOh).

“I have had to make some very difficult decisions this year, and filing Chapter 7 was one of them,” Suleman said.

The La Habra mother of 14 reports up to $50,000 in assets in federal court filings, which means she owes more than 20 times her net worth.

Suleman is filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy, which means a court-appointed trustee would liquidate her assets to pay off creditors before she is discharged from most of her debts.

Among others, Suleman owes money to her father, the city’s water department, DirecTV and Whittier Christian School, where at least some of her children are students.

Suleman also owes more than $30,000 in rent payments on her four-bedroom house.

The home’s owner, Amer Haddadin, says his own credit has suffered as he allowed the home to go into foreclosure proceedings by not making the mortgage payments.

A foreclosure auction that was scheduled for Monday has been postponed for a week.

Suleman was in financial dire straits before the January 2009 birth of her octuplets brought her notoriety.

She lived with her mother in a three-bedroom house in Whittier that was in foreclosure proceedings at the time of the octuplets’ birth.

The unemployed single mother had been supporting her six other children with the aid of food stamps and Social Security disability payments—sources of income that she continues to rely on.

Since the birth, she has cut deals with media outlets and posed in tabloid photo spreads to get by, touting a book and exercise videos that never materialized.

She earned $5,000 for promoting spaying and neutering for an animal rights group and was paid to take a beating in celebrity boxing matches.

In 2009, Suleman declined a million-dollar offer to appear in pornography.

Last month, semi-nude photos of Suleman ran alongside a paid interview in a British publication—a photo spread she defended in the tabloids, saying she wasn’t ashamed of it.

All Suleman’s children were conceived through in vitro fertility treatments. Her octuplets are the world’s longest-surviving set.

‘Three Cups of Tea’ lawsuit rejected

HELENA, Mont. (AP)—A federal judge on Monday dismissed a civil lawsuit against author Greg Mortenson, calling claims “flimsy and speculative” that the humanitarian and his publisher lied in his best-selling “Three Cups of Tea” and “Stones Into Schools” books to boost sales.

The lawsuit by four people who bought Mortenson’s books claimed that they were cheated out of about $15 each because the books were labeled as nonfiction accounts of how Mortenson came to build schools in central Asia. They had asked U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon to order Mortenson and publisher Penguin Group (USA) to refund all the money collected from Mortenson’s book sales.

The readers from Montana, California and Illinois filed the lawsuit after “60 Minutes” and author Jon Krakauer reported last year that Mortenson fabricated parts of those books.

The plaintiffs said Mortenson, co-author David Oliver Relin, Penguin and Central Asia Institute were involved in a fraud and racketeering conspiracy to build Mortenson into a false hero to sell books and raise money for CAI, the charity Mortenson co-founded.

Haddon wrote in his ruling that their racketeering allegations “are fraught with shortcomings” and the plaintiffs’ “overly broad” claims that they bought the books because they were supposed to be true were not supported in the lawsuit.

The ruling is good news for Mortenson and his charity after the Montana attorney general earlier in April announced a $1 million agreement to settle claims that Mortenson mismanaged the institute and misspent its funds. The agreement removes Mortenson from any financial oversight and overhauls the charity’s structure, but it does not address the books’ contents.

Mortenson, who was traveling to Pakistan and Afghanistan, said in an email Monday to The Associated Press that the past year has been challenging as he faced the Montana investigation, the lawsuit, the media reports, plus surgery for a small hole doctors found in his heart.

AP

In this November 2011 photo provided by the Central Asia Institute, the group’s co-founder, Greg Mortenson, left, practices counting with first-graders in one of CAI’s four schools in Zebak District, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan.

“At times, facing so much was overwhelming and devastating, however, my attorneys always offered steadfast encouragement to stay positive and keep the high ground, even when subjected to false allegations, vicious name-calling and slander,” Mortenson said in his first public statement in a year.

The judge’s ruling “upholds and confirms my belief and faith that our American legal and judicial system is honorable and fair,” he added.

“Three Cups of Tea,” which has sold about 4 million copies since being published in 2006, was conceived as a way to raise money and tell the story of his institute, founded by Mortenson in 1996.

The book and promotion of the charity by Mortenson, who appeared at more than 500 speaking engagements in four years, resulted in tens of millions of dollars in donations.

The book recounts how Mortenson lost his way after a failed mountaineering expedition and was nursed back to health in a Pakistani village. Based on the villagers’ kindness and the poverty he saw, he resolved to build a school for them.

The lawsuit claimed, as did the Krakauer and “60 Minutes” report, that Mortenson fabricated that story and others in the book and its sequel, “Stones Into Schools.”

Mortenson has denied any wrongdoing, though he has acknowledged some of the events in “Three Cups of Tea” were compressed over different periods of time.

The judge did not address allegations of fabrications, but wrote that the plaintiffs can’t simply rely on general allegations of lies in making a claim.

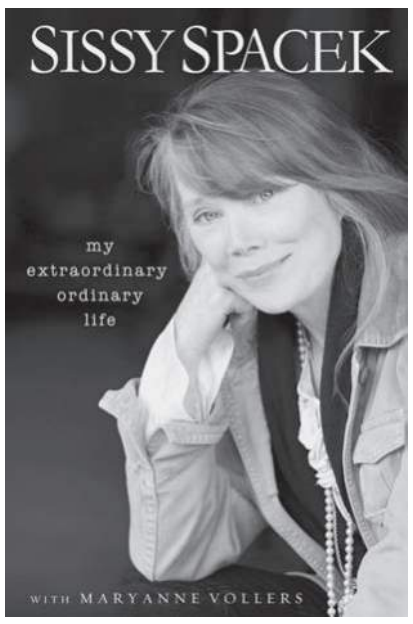
Haddon wrote that many of the items that the lawsuit lists as lies made by the defendants after the books were written, such as CAI paying for Mortenson’s expenses and purchasing his books, “do not actually appear to be untruthful or illegal, and are overly vague.”

Haddon also ruled that the plaintiffs can’t rewrite their complaint to address those shortcomings, noting that the case has been pending for nearly a year and the lawsuit already has been changed five times.

“The imprecise, in part flimsy, and speculative nature of the claims and theories advanced underscore the necessary conclusion that further amendment would be futile,” Haddon wrote.

Plaintiffs’ attorney Zander Blewett did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Sissy Spacek writes tender, touching book



By DOUGLASS K. DANIEL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Actress Sissy Spacek’s autobiography is as tender and touching as many of her best movie roles.

Granted, there’s not much tender or touching about “Carrie” (1976). One of the scarier horror films ever made, her breakthrough movie depicts high school and adolescence as a teenage nightmare.

And toughness as much as tenderness marks “Coal Miner’s Daughter” (1980), the biopic that won Spacek an Oscar. Besides turning in a musical performance worthy of country singer Loretta Lynn—she shadowed Lynn for weeks on end and sang with her—Spacek captured the inner strength that Lynn needed to survive the journey from hill country to stardom.

Those two roles define Spacek’s career, more so than any of the dozens of others she’s played over 40 years. One of the delights of “My Extraordinary Ordinary Life” is how it sparks memories of any number of films in which Spacek has moved us, from “Badlands” (1973) and “Missing” (1982) to “Crimes of the Heart” (1986) and last year’s “The Help.”

In playing such deeply emotional roles as the suicidal daughter in “`night, Mother” (1986) and the grieving wife and mother in “In the Bedroom” (2001), you’d think Spacek must have drawn inspiration from a troubled personal life. Hardly. She had a wonderful childhood in east Texas, anchored by loving parents and two rascally brothers.

Nearly half of her book recounts those days, and with good reason. Life as a tomboy in little Quitman, Texas, in the 1950s and 1960s formed Spacek’s core as a person and as a performer. That’s where she developed the courage and self-confidence to skip college and go off to New York City to try to make it as a singer, and later to move to Los Angeles to see if she could achieve a career as an actress.

When you consider movies like the underrated “Raggedy Man” (1981), “The River” (1984) and “The Straight Story” (1999), you can imagine Spacek tapping the kinds of small-town experiences she shares in the pages of “My Extraordinary Ordinary Life.”

NJ Gov. Christie shrugs off Kimmel's fat jokes

PLAINSBORO, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie says having a sexy television star seated beside him made it easier to absorb the fat jokes Jimmy Kimmel made at his expense during the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

Christie told reporters Monday that "when you have (Sofia Vergara) next to you to console you, let me tell you, you don't care what the heck Jimmy Kimmel is saying about you."

Christie

Vergara stars on the ABC sitcom "Modern Family."

Kimmel made three jokes about the overweight governor during a monologue Saturday night that also cracked on President Barack Obama's thinness. He suggested Christie misunderstood his state's nickname, saying: "It's not the Olive Garden State."

Christie says that when Kimmel started joking about the president's weight, "I figured I was in the zone of danger."

'Hunger Games,' 'Bridesmaids' top MTV Movie Awards noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—This year's MTV Movie Awards will be a showdown between a bevy of bridesmaids and a cast of killer kids.

MTV says "Bridesmaids" and "The Hunger Games" top nominees with eight nods apiece, including bids for best cast, breakthrough performance and movie of the year. Also up for best picture are "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," "The Help" And "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1."

MTV announced nominees Monday in 12 categories, including six new ones such as "best on-screen dirtbag" and "best gut-wrenching performance."

Fans can choose the winners by voting online beginning Tuesday at 8 a.m. Eastern time.

The 21st annual MTV Movie Awards will be presented June 3 at the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif., and broadcast live on MTV.

Martin Lawrence files for divorce

AP

In a Monday, Sept. 25, 2006 file photo, actor Martin Lawrence poses for photographers at the premiere of "Open Season" in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show Martin Lawrence has filed for divorce from his wife of nearly two years.

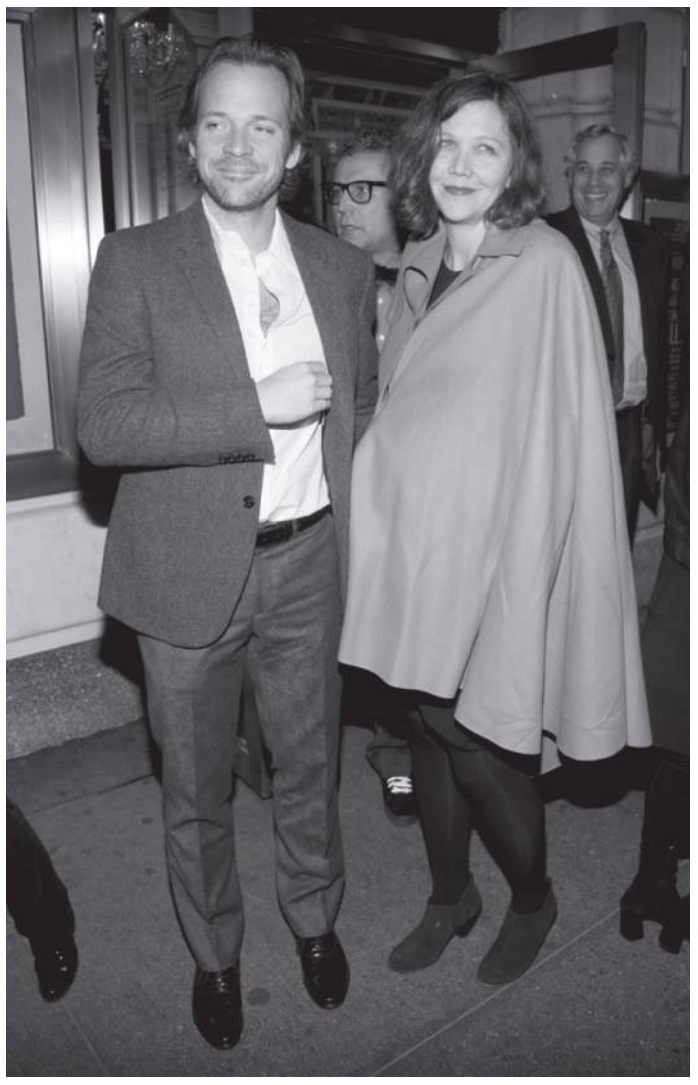
The actor-comedian cited irreconcilable differences in his filing Wednesday. He and Shamicka Lawrence married in July 2010.

The couple dated for years and have two daughters together, ages 9 and 11. The 47-year-old star of "Big Momma's House" and the sitcom "Martin" is seeking joint custody of the children.

The filings state the couple separated last week and they have a prenuptial agreement.

The divorce was first reported Monday by celebrity website TMZ.

Maggie Gyllenhaal, Peter Sarsgaard have a daughter



AP

In this March 15, 2012 file photo, actors Peter Sarsgaard amd Maggie Gyllenhaal leave the opening night performance of the Broadway revival of Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman" in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Maggie Gyllenhaal and Peter Sarsgaard have welcomed a second daughter.

Gyllenhaal's publicist said in an email Monday that the actress gave birth to Gloria Ray on April 19 in New York. No more details were provided.

The couple had their first daughter, Ramona, in 2006. They got married in 2009.

The 34-year-old Gyllenhaal has appeared in films including "The Dark Knight" and "Secretary." She earned an Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress for 2009's "Crazy Heart."

The 41-year-old Sarsgaard has been seen in movies such has "Shattered Glass," "Jarhead" and "Green Lantern."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

HBO orders second season for 'Girls,' 'Veep'

NEW YORK (AP)—"Veep" is getting a second term on HBO, as is the comedy "Girls." The pay cable network announced Monday that both of the comedies, which debuted this spring, will get second seasons. HBO ordered 10-episode seasons for both of them. "Girls" has been the recipient of some rapturous reviews. It was created by Lena Dunham, who stars as one of four young women in an up-to-date coming-of-age story based in New York City. Reviews for "Veep" were more mixed, but the star power of Julia Louis-Dreyfus initially brought in more viewers than "Girls." Louis-Dreyfus plays Vice President Selina Meyer, forced to endure some of the ritual humiliations of being second-in-command.

'Crocodile Dundee' star Paul Hogan ends tax battle

SYDNEY (AP)—"Crocodile Dundee" star Paul Hogan has resolved his seven-year battle with Australian tax authorities over alleged unpaid taxes dating back to his first international hit movie in the 1980s. Hogan and his friend and producer John Cornell said through their lawyer, Andrew Robinson, on Monday that the pair had reached a settlement with tax authorities to resolve more than 150 million Australian dollars ($156 million) in alleged unpaid taxes and penalties. Tax officials barred the Australian actor from returning to his Los Angeles home for two weeks over the matter in 2010 when he returned to Sydney for his mother's funeral. Hogan's lawyers eventually secured a deal that allowed him to leave Australia. The 72-year-old comedic actor became an international star with the 1986 movie "Crocodile Dundee."

Poker great Thomas 'Amarillo Slim' Preston dies

AMARILLO, Texas (AP)—Thomas Austin "Amarillo Slim" Preston Jr., a poker champion whose brash style, fast talking and love of the spotlight helped broaden the professional game's appeal and made him one of its most recognizable characters, has died. He was 83. Preston's son, Bunky Preston, said he died Sunday of colon cancer while in hospice care in Amarillo, where he lived. "He was playing poker until the very, very end," Bunky Preston told The Associated Press on Monday. While Thomas Preston craved the spotlight that his poker fame provided, his public image was sullied eight years ago when he was sentenced to probation on misdemeanor charges that he assaulted a young relative.

Offense was in the eye of body art's beholder

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: On a recent airline flight, a tall man who sat behind me had his left leg out in the aisle during most of the trip. He was wearing shorts, and you could see his large tattoo of a naked woman on his thigh. The drawing was very explicit, and there was no way to avoid seeing it because passengers had to cross over his leg to reach the bathroom.

How do you explain this kind of "art" to children? Would the airline have the right to ask him to cover the tattoo if it was objectionable?

OFFENDED TRAVELER FROM NEW YORK

DEAR OFFENDED: Because body art could be classified as freedom of expression, I'm not sure they do. However, someone's leg protruding into the aisle might be considered a safety issue because it could cause a trip and fall. It would also impede food and beverage carts traveling up and down the aisle. Because you were offended, I hope you averted your gaze if you needed to make more than one trip to the lavatory, and if there were children in tow, that you didn't call their attention to the "picture."

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I had an urgent piece of mail to get to the post office. My sister called the postmistress, who agreed to stay open for her to deliver it. In the meantime, I found two other pieces of mail that required checks, quickly wrote them out and gave the three envelopes to my sister, who rushed them to the post office.

Upon her return, she showed me her vehicle, which had a deep gash running along one side because she had backed down the driveway too quickly, not paying attention, and had scraped the car against the stone post. She thinks I should pay half the cost of repair because "I was involved."

I think it was her carelessness, and therefore, I should not have to pay. I'm not angry, just confused by her reasoning because the same thing happened to me when I ran an errand for her, but I paid on my own for my carelessness. What do you think?

THINKS DIFFERENTLY IN TENNESSEE

DEAR THINKS DIFFERENTLY: I think you should remind your sister that when the same thing happened to you while running an errand for her, you assumed the responsibility for paying for it. For her to say that you were "involved" is stretching the truth. She's trying to guilt you into paying. Stand your ground.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 20-year-old female junior in college. I am intelligent, attractive and friendly, and I want to remain a virgin until I'm married. This is not because of religious reasons. I have had a few relationships I thought were serious, but I ended up getting dumped for a "looser" girl each time, which really hurts.

My family and friends don't understand that waiting until marriage is part of who I am. Ironically, I was raised to think this was proper, but once I reached a certain age, everyone seemed to change their minds.

I'm not looking to get married for at least five years, which means a long wait for anyone who wants to date me. Am I going to be alone forever just because I won't jump into bed with a guy before we're married?

PRINCIPLED IN ANN ARBOR, MICH.

DEAR PRINCIPLED: Not quite forever. I admire you for adhering to your values and so will the man who marries you.

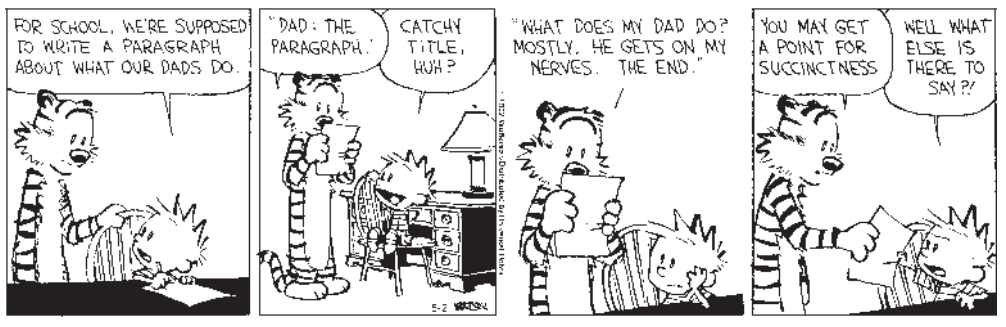
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

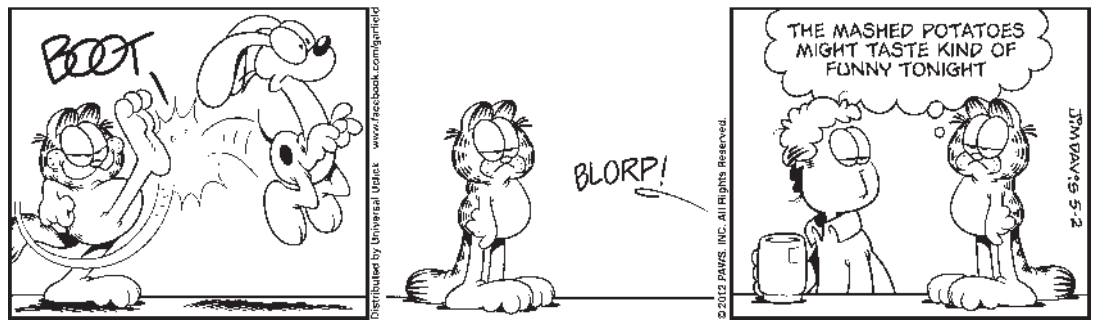
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


FOR SCHOOL, WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WRITE A PARAGRAPH ABOUT WHAT OUR DADS DO.
"DAD: THE PARAGRAPH."
CATCHY TITLE, HUH?
"WHAT DOES MY DAD DO? MOSTLY, HE GETS ON MY NERVES. THE END."
YOU MAY GET A POINT FOR SUCCINCTNESS
WELL WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO SAY?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


BOOT
BLORP!
THE MASHED POTATOES MIGHT TASTE KIND OF FUNNY TONIGHT
JIM DAVIS 5-2
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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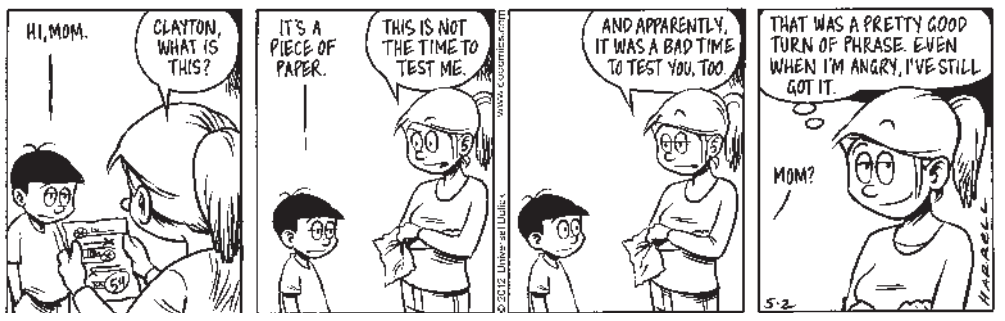
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI, MOM.
CLAYTON, WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S A PIECE OF PAPER.
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO TEST ME.
AND APPARENTLY, IT WAS A BAD TIME TO TEST YOU, TOO.
THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD TURN OF PHRASE. EVEN WHEN I'M ANGRY, I'VE STILL GOT IT.
MOM?
5-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Gorilla
4 Parisian pal
7 Entreaty
8 "Excavating for —"
10 Drilling device
11 Caught
13 Exempted, in a sense
16 Raw rock
17 Take another meeting
18 "Rocks"
19 Hurry
20 Campus VIP
21 Wine-glass features
23 Popular Indian entree
25 Vocal comeback
26 Shetland, e.g.
27 Needlefish
28 Bring out
30 Seek restitution
33 Bombastic
36 It was "white as snow"
37 More than sufficient
38 Hamstrings
39 Leading man?
40 "Awesome!"
41 Actor Chaney

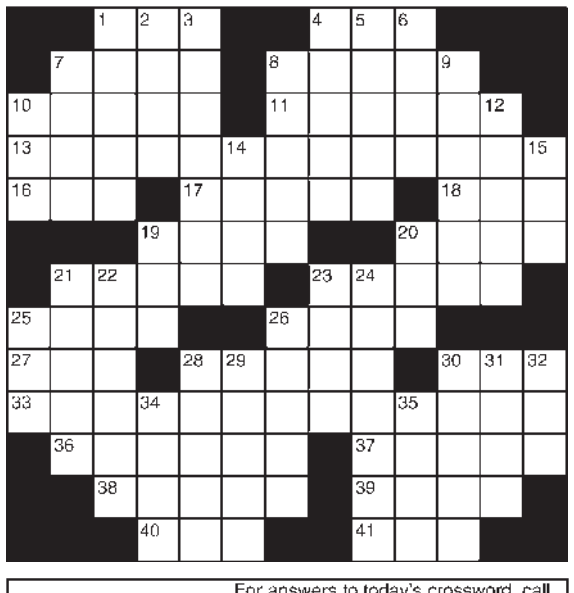
DOWN

1 Pond buildup
2 Hammerhead part
3 Tympanic membrane
4 Violin craftsman
5 Possibly will
6 "Bus Stop" playwright
7 Sound of contentment
8 Embarrass
9 More spooky
10 Past
12 Rot
14 — up (admit)
15 Lair
19 Old Oldsmobile
20 Parched
21 Muffler
22 Servitude
23 Couturier Chanel
24 Different
25 Ovum
26 Whines
28 Botanical swelling
29 Cut into cubes
30 Automobile style
31 "E Pluribus —"
32 Summer, on the Seine
34 Approach
35 Loosen

Solution time: 21 mins.

G	F	F	Z	■	O	R	B	■	F	O	R	D
A	C	M	E	■	R	O	E	■	E	R	I	E
S	H	I	P	■	C	O	I	D	C	A	S	F
H	O	T	H	E	A	D	■	E	U	L	E	R
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	M	A	N	■	■	■
S	T	A	R	K	■	C	O	L	D	W	A	R
H	O	P	■	■	E	C	O	■	■	E	R	A
H	O	T	D	O	G	S	■	H	U	T	C	H
■	■	■	R	O	O	■	H	A	P	■	■	■
C	L	E	A	N	■	C	O	L	D	D	A	Y
H	O	T	W	A	T	E	R	■	A	R	G	O
A	C	N	E	■	O	D	D	■	T	O	U	R
R	O	A	R	■	T	E	E	■	E	P	E	E

Yesterday's answer 5-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kyle Busch, 27; David Beckham, 37; Dwayne Johnson, 40; Christine Baranski, 60.

Happy Birthday: Put your skills to the test. Utilize your talents in a way they've never been used before. Diversification will give you a chance to separate yourself from the competition. Hard work, discipline and confidence will make an impression. Don't sell yourself short or shy away from an opportunity to make a move. Your numbers are 5, 12, 20, 24, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Speak up, or you will limit your chance to get ahead. You have far more to offer than you realize. Take credit for your ideas and move along at your own pace. Show your leadership ability and you will excel. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get involved in an activity that will challenge you to do your very best. You'll have the drive and determination to win. Competitors may try to intimidate you, but if you concentrate on what you need to do, you will be unstoppable. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't allow a personal situation to escalate into an unhealthy problem. Use your intelligence to get others to see things your way. A last-minute change will cost you if you aren't prepared to make an on-the-spot decision. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): What you learn and the people you meet at gatherings will pay off. Share your ideas and you will attract interest in a project you'd like to pursue. Someone close to you will feel threatened by your desire to make new friends. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Relax, rest or take a short trip. A change of pace, direction or location will help you come to terms with a decision you need to make. Keeping things small and simple can bring you a higher return. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Separate work and personal issues, or you will have trouble with deadlines. A short business trip will help you resolve issues that have the potential to be costly. Your undivided attention will impress the people you are dealing with. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Go to the heart of the matter. Ask questions and find out what you have to do to keep the peace. Ignoring what's going on in your personal or financial affairs will make matters worse. Face the music and clear the air. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll attract partners and enjoy interactions with people who share your interests, but don't let it turn into a financial burden. You cannot pay for others or offer your services for free. Don't sell yourself short. Generosity doesn't pay the bills. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't hesitate to make a request if it will make you happy. Love is in the stars, and a commitment can be made. Stick close to home and avoid any situation that might cause a problem with rules, regulations or authority figures. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't get stuck with responsibilities that aren't yours. Time spent at home or dealing with personal business matters will enhance your financial situation. A change at home will benefit you greatly. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Make a move or change your living arrangements. You can stabilize your financial situation if you stick to a budget or invest in something that can bring in extra cash. Improving your personal situation will benefit you professionally as well. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll have trouble convincing a partner to go along with your plans. Don't beat around the bush. State the facts and figures, as well as how you intend to handle the situation, and express an interest in discussing alternative plans. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are bold, aggressive and to the point. You stand behind your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		7	4				2	8
	3					1		
2					7			
8					3			
6					9			
1	4	3			8	5	7	
7			3		5			2
3			2		4			1
	2	4				7	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	9	4	2	3	8	7	5
8	4	5	7	9	1	6	3	2
3	7	2	8	5	6	4	1	9
2	6	7	3	8	9	5	4	1
5	3	4	1	6	2	9	8	7
1	9	8	5	4	7	2	6	3
7	2	6	9	1	8	3	5	4
4	8	3	2	7	5	1	9	6
9	5	1	6	3	4	7	2	8

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

I LOVE YOUR HAIR **Solution: 7 letters**

H	P	W	M	D	H	F	R	A	G	R	A	N	C	E
B	I	R	A	A	A	E	G	A	M	I	H	A	B	E
S	E	G	O	S	I	R	S	U	Y	I	C	R	S	R
P	M	A	H	D	H	N	K	H	M	P	U	O	F	A
I	E	I	U	L	U	I	T	S	A	S	O	R	E	T
T	O	C	R	T	I	C	N	E	H	M	T	C	E	S
N	E	U	N	T	Y	G	T	G	N	A	P	D	L	T
Y	C	X	E	A	R	R	H	S	N	A	D	O	O	Y
S	C	A	T	O	R	O	D	T	F	I	N	E	O	L
S	S	H	O	U	Ⓑ	A	S	W	S	G	T	C	K	E
E	R	M	A	N	R	Ⓜ	E	H	O	T	T	T	E	D
M	E	E	A	N	O	E	Ⓞ	P	I	L	N	F	U	W
D	S	E	Y	D	G	R	S	Ⓒ	P	N	B	I	O	C
S	L	E	G	A	T	E	I	S	K	A	E	R	T	S
C	O	L	O	R	L	N	O	L	A	S	G	N	A	B

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Appearance, Bangs, Beauty, Blow Dry, Brush, Change, Clean, Color, Comb, Copy, Curl, Cutting, Dark, Dyes, Fashion, Feel, Fine, Fragrance, Gels, Groomed, Grow, Highlights, Image, Iron, Layers, Long, Look, Maintenance, Messy, Moose, Products, Salon, Shade, Shampoo, Shine, Short, Smug, Soft, Stare, Streaks, Styled, Tease, Texture, Tint, Tips, Touch, Trim, Washing

Yesterday's Answer: Cornstarch

The NEW Treasury 12 number puzzle by sending the correct answer code for $4.99, add $1.50 postage and handling ($7.49 total) to: Word Power, $1.00 per 6 words, 3 letter minimum. Unused letters form a bonus word. Mail to: Treasury 12, Kansas City, MO 64121. Send toll free 1-800-642-5282. Over one million puzzles at www.wordpower.com (Cartoon clue for answer on page 2C of this newspaper)

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipanproperties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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WHATZIT Solution: Big idea

Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc.

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(1) Assistant Manager. Salary $5.05 p/h. 5 years experience required. Must fulfill job assignment from Managers. Able to Speak/Write English and Chinese language.

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Daily and shift auditing
Responsible for maintaining G/L and
preparing month end P&L
Prepare BGR tax reports
Must demonstrate excellent Word and Excel skills
Experience with Quick Books and
ACCPAC accounting programs

Must demonstrate ability to communicate
effectively in English
Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines

Full time and part time employment available
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On island references & police clearance required

Applications must be submitted by May 8th.

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GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through January
SRCR welcomed nine new members in 2011

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Stoudemire hurt postgame, Heat beat NY

MIAMI (AP)—Drops of blood stained the carpet leading up to the back entrance of the New York Knicks' locker room. The glass portion of a nearby fire-extinguisher case was quickly replaced. And Amare Stoudemire needed doctors and paramedics to treat a cut on his left hand.

Game 2 probably wasn't all the Knicks lost in Miami on Monday night.

Stoudemire left the building with his arm in a sling and what appeared to be a bulky wrap over his left hand, long after the Heat took control of the teams' Eastern Conference first-round series with a 104-94 win over the Knicks, going up 2-0.

It resumes Thursday in New York, and although the Knicks were saying nothing for certain, it seems most unlikely that Stoudemire would be able to play.

"I am so mad at myself right now, I want to apologize to the fans and my team, not proud of my actions, headed home for a new start," Stoudemire wrote on Twitter after the Knicks left the arena.

Knicks center Tyson Chandler said he did not expect Stoudemire to play Game 3. An update from the Knicks said, "Extent of injury is unknown at this time."

Dwyane Wade scored 25 points, Chris Bosh added 21 and LeBron James finished with 19 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Heat, but their night was completely overshadowed by whatever went on with Stoudemire in the hallway that's just a few steps from the edge of the court.

"You never want to hear anyone gets hurt," Wade said. "Hopefully he gets better. We want all their guns on the court."

Everything the Heat did seemed like old news quickly after the game, when all anyone really wanted to talk about was what was going on in the Knicks locker room. Miami-Dade paramedics—who staff every game—were summoned while reporters were kept outside much longer than the typical 10-minute cooling-off period.

"We're all frustrated," Chandler said.

Stoudemire declined to say anything when he walked out of the shower area in the locker room, one towel around his waist, another shielding his left hand, which he held elevated as he slipped into the privacy of the training room, which is off-limits to basically everyone but team personnel.

Almost forgotten: Miami had just sent New York to its NBA-record-tying 12th straight postseason loss.

"This is a series," Chandler said. "We've got to go home win the next two and turn into a best-of-three after that."

Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points on 12-for-26 shooting for New York, which got 18 points from Stoudemire and 13 apiece from Chandler and J.R. Smith. The only other team to lose 12 straight playoff games is the Memphis Grizzlies, who dropped their first dozen postseason contests from 2004 through 2006.

Anthony said he was "on the court" when whatever happened with Stoudemire occurred. "I really don't know what's the situation with that," Anthony said.

New York's last postseason win came April 29, 2001.

AP

New York Knicks' Amare Stoudemire leaves American Airlines Arena with his left arm in a sling after an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs in Miami, Monday, April 30, 2012.

Mario Chalmers scored 13 points and Mike Miller and Shane Battier each shot 3 for 5 from 3-point range on their way to 11-point games for the defending East champion Heat, who shot 52 percent.

"Every game we try to find our shooters, get them comfortable in the offense and once they catch them, they can let it fly," James said. "It was concerted effort tonight to get them the ball and move the ball from one side to the other."

Baron Davis, who sat most of the first half and has been battling back issues, finished with 12 points for the Knicks.

The Heat came into the game saying they expected Anthony to be much more aggressive. They were right.

Anthony opened with an 11-shot quarter—the last time someone took more in the first 12 minutes of a playoff game was May 15, 2006, when Richard Hamilton got 12 shots off for Detroit against Cleveland. Anthony missed all seven of the jumpers he took in Game 1 when guarded by James, then got his first one to fall on the game's first possession Monday.

By halftime, Anthony was up to 21 points on 9-for-18 shooting, the Knicks needing all that and more. Wade, James and Bosh combined for 41 points in the first two quarters, helping Miami take a 53-47 lead.

Unlike Game 1, it wasn't over by halftime. And play was heated, just not overheated. Well, until postgame, anyway.

Chandler, who set a back pick that sent James tumbling late in Saturday's first half, picked up a technical for taunting early in the second quarter when he went over Miller for a putback dunk and then glared at him for a few moments. A few minutes later, James did a fist-pump toward the seats after a layup late in the half.

But whenever Miami was on the cusp of pulling away, New York had answers.

Consecutive baskets by James midway through the third quarter, the second of those good enough for him to merit it worthy of a chest-bump and long look at the Knicks bench, put Miami up 67-56—then its biggest lead. Four minutes later, the Knicks were within four, a dunk by Chandler making it 72-68 with 1:37 left in the period.

Miami's margin was back to nine after a flurry ended the quarter. James drove right and got just about every Knick to shift with him, leaving Battier all alone for a 3-pointer, and James' three-point play as the shot clock was running down had him laughing and the Heat up 78-69 going into the fourth.

The Knicks never got any closer, and the Heat wound up holding serve at home.

"We did what we're supposed to do," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It's not anything more than that. We're already trying to leave this game behind."

By then, word was just seeping out of what happened in the Knicks locker room.

"Amare is a huge piece of this team," Chandler said. "And, you know, without him, it's going to make it more difficult."

Thunder 102, Mavericks 99

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 29 points and Kevin Durant added 26 as Oklahoma City took a 2-0 lead in the first-round playoff series.

Durant hit two free throws with 50.4 seconds left to give Oklahoma City a 98-97 lead, and James Harden hit four more foul shots to close it out for the Thunder.

Jason Terry missed two 3-point attempts from the left wing in the final 5 seconds that could have leveled it.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 31 points and Shawn Marion scored 15. The Mavericks led in the closing minutes of both road games but couldn't even manage a split.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Dallas.

The Thunder lost both home games to Dallas in last year's Western Conference finals. Durant hit a jumper with 1.5 seconds left as Oklahoma City overcame a seven-point deficit with 2 1/2 minutes left to win Game 1 99-98.

Pacers 93, Magic 78

In Indianapolis, David West had 18 points and 11 rebounds to help Indiana level the Eastern Conference first-round series at one game apiece.

Danny Granger and George Hill each added 18 points and Paul George had 17 points and eight rebounds for Indiana.

Glen Davis led the Magic with 18 points and 10 rebounds, but he shot 5 for 16 from the field. J.J. Redick scored 13 points and Jameer Nelson added 12 for Orlando.

The Pacers were heavy favorites in the series because Dwight Howard, Orlando's All-Star center, is out with a back injury. Indiana lost Game 1 81-77 on Saturday, and the frustrated Pacers fought hard to avoid taking a two-game deficit to Orlando on Wednesday.

Indiana outrebounded Orlando 26-13 in the second half and held the Magic to 36 percent shooting overall. Indiana has held the Magic below 40 percent shooting in both games.

Rondo suspended for Game 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Rajon Rondo lost control in the final minute of Game 1, and that means he won't be on the court for Game 2.

The NBA announced Monday that the Boston Celtics' star point guard has been suspended one game without pay in the opening-round playoff series against the Atlanta Hawks.

Rondo will miss Tuesday night's contest in Atlanta after sticking out his chest to bump referee Marc Davis while disputing a foul call with 41 seconds left in Boston's Game 1 loss. Speaking during a playoff game in Indiana, NBA Commissioner David Stern said the league had no choice other than to suspend Rondo.

"I can't allow that," Stern said. "If we don't protect our officials in this fast-paced game with very large players, we've lost a lot in my mind."

The league's assist leader scored 20 points and dished out 11 assists before he was tossed, leaving Boston with a huge hole in its lineup. This is Rondo's second suspension of the season, following a two-game ban in February for throwing a ball at an official.

"That's part of the package with our team. We're a volatile team in a lot of ways," coach Doc Rivers said during a practice at Georgia Tech. "Rondo is an emotional player. ... I like his fire, but sometimes he burns you."

Boston lost both games while Rondo was suspended, but the team is 8-5 overall in games he missed this season.

"This is a resilient basketball team," Rivers said. "That's what we've been all year. Sometimes, it takes this stuff, for whatever reason, to snap us into playing the right way. I don't know whether we're going to win or lose, but I can guarantee you we'll be ready to play."

Rondo was about the only bright spot for Boston in the series opener. He was the lone player hitting consistently from the outside, knocking down 10 of 18 shots, and he did his usual superb job as a floor leader. It was his 24th consecutive game with double-figure assists, and he turned it over only one time.

Then, with the Celtics having trimmed a 19-point deficit down to just four, Brandon Bass went to the court tussling for a loose ball with Atlanta's Josh Smith. Boston thought it should've been a jump ball, but Davis called a foul on Bass. Rondo was outraged, screaming something that immediately drew a technical. With Davis' back turned, the guard jutted out his chest to make contact with the official.

Davis signaled another technical and ejected Rondo from the game. The Hawks held on for an 83-74 victory.

"This was a loose ball foul. Period," Stern said. "The foul called was a clear foul. It was a loose ball foul. Rondo missed it, he got very upset and he lost it. He got a `T' for one and then he bumped the official."

In Stern's opinion, there was nothing accidental about the bump.

"When you put yourself in position to bump somebody, it's intentional," the commissioner said. "If you're asking if the ref bumped back into Rondo, no. "

Darvish wins 3rd straight, Rangers beat Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP)—Yu Darvish won his third straight start, while Mitch Moreland and Craig Gentry homered as the Texas Rangers beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 Monday night.

Darvish (4-0) allowed his first home run but remained unbeaten in five major league starts. He gave up four hits in seven innings, walked two and struck out nine.

In winning his past three starts, Darvish has allowed just two earned runs over 21 2-3 innings against Detroit, the New York Yankees and Toronto. His season ERA is 2.18.

Mike Adams worked the eighth and Joe Nathan finished for his sixth save in seven chances.

Texas slugger Josh Hamilton was held out of the lineup with a sore back. He is day to day.

Moreland and Gentry, the eighth and ninth hitters in Texas' lineup, hit back-to-back solo shots off rookie Evan Crawford in the seventh.

Blue Jays right-hander Kyle Drabek (2-2) allowed two runs in six innings. He struck out a career-high eight, including five straight during one stretch.

AP

Texas Rangers pitcher Yu Darvish, right, hugs manager Ron Washington, left, after the Rangers defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 4-1 in a baseball game in Toronto on Monday, April 30, 2012.

Yankees 2, Orioles 1

In New York, Hiroki Kuroda pitched seven neat innings and combined with catcher Russell Martin to nab Nick Markakis at the plate in the key play of the game, lifting the Yankees over Baltimore.

Eric Chavez hit an early two-run homer as the Yankees beat Baltimore once again. They are 4-0 against the Orioles this year, 43-15 over the O's since 2009 and have not lost any of the last 14 season series to them.

The loss denied Buck Showalter his 1,000th win as a big league manager — his first victory came in 1992 next door at the old Yankee Stadium. Baltimore lost for the second time in eight games.

New York made several sparkling plays in the field, including two by novice left fielder Eduardo Nunez.

Kuroda (2-3) allowed one run and four hits while outpitching steady Jason Hammel (3-1).

David Robertson struck out the side in the eighth for the Yankees and Mariano Rivera closed for his fifth save in six chances.

Red Sox 11, Athletics 6

In Boston, David Ortiz finished the best April of his career with a pair of solo homers and Mike Aviles hit a three-run shot in Boston's victory over Oakland.

Darnell McDonald had a two-run homer and Marlon Byrd drove in a pair of runs to support Clay Buchholz (3-1), who held Oakland to one run until he gave up five in the seventh inning.

Ortiz hit .405 in April with six homers and 20 RBIs. He batted .543 at Fenway Park (19 for 35).

It was Boston's seventh win in eight games, coming off a 6-1 road trip.

Former Red Sox outfielder Josh Reddick hit a three-run homer for Oakland, which dropped its third straight. Athletics starter Tommy Milone (3-2) allowed eight runs—seven earned—in 4 2-3 innings.

Rays 3, Mariners 2, 12 innings

In St. Petersburg, Elliot Johnson hit an RBI single with one out in the 12th inning, giving Tampa Bay a comeback victory over Seattle.

Playing before a crowd of just 9,458—the smallest at Tropicana Field since September 2007—the Rays twice rallied from one-run deficits before winning it against Brandon League (0-2), who failed to hold a 2-1 lead the Mariners took on Jesus Montero's homer in the 11th.

J.P. Howell (1-0) pitched a scoreless inning for the win. B.J. Upton's RBI single in the 11th wiped out the short-lived lead the Mariners took on Montero's homer off Wade Davis.

Seattle ace Felix Hernandez struck out nine in eight innings.

Angels 4, Twins 3

In Anaheim, C.J. Wilson held Minnesota scoreless into the eighth inning, guiding Los Angeles to a tight win.

Torii Hunter homered and drove in three runs for Los Angeles, which returned from a rough road trip with a much-needed victory.

It was the first time in eight games that the Angels had managed to scored five runs.

The Twins opened a six-game West Coast road trip with their seventh loss in eight games. Minnesota has the majors' worst record at 6-16.

Rockies 6, Dodgers 2

In Denver, Colorado's Juan Nicasio pitched six solid innings to steer the Rockies to a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first of 18 meetings this season between the National League West rivals.

Continuing his remarkable comeback from a broken neck sustained last August when he was hit in the head by a line drive, Nicasio (2-0) gave up only two runs.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run double for the Rockies, who went ahead with a three-run fourth inning off Los Angeles starter Aaron Harang (2-1) who went 5-2/3 innings, giving up five runs.

Matt Kemp hit his major league-leading 12th homer of the season for the Dodgers, who have the best record in the NL at 16-7.

Pirates 9, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Pedro Alvarez and Yamaico Navarro each hit two-run homers as Pittsburgh enjoyed a long-awaited offensive breakthrough and beat Atlanta.

The Pirates, last in the major leagues with 58 runs in 22 games, almost doubled their previous season high of five runs. Neil Walker had three hits and drove in a run.

It took the Pirates 22 games this season to score more than five runs. That was the longest streak since the 1972 Milwaukee Brewers went a major league-record 31 games into the season without surpassing five runs, according STATS LLC. The last National League team with a longer streak was the 1919 Boston Braves, who went an NL-record 23 games into the season without topping five runs.

James McDonald (1-1) set a career high with 10 strikeouts as he improved to 3-0 in six career appearances against the Braves.

Navarro homered off Mike Minor (2-2) in the sixth.

Astros 4, Mets 3

In Houston, Matt Downs hit a two-run homer as Houston edged New York.

The game was tied 3-3 starting the bottom of the eight, when Jordan Schafer reached first base on an infield single. He stole second with one out and scored on a single by Jed Lowrie, which Mets eliever Manny Acosta (0-2) deflected into the outfield.

New York had tied the game by scoring three times in the seventh.

Astros reliever Fernando Rodriguez (1-3) got the last out of the eighth for the win and Brett Myers pitched a perfect ninth for the save.

Phillies 6, Cubs 4

In Philadelphia, Placido Polanco hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth inning to lift the Phillies over the Cubs.

Bryan LaHair hit a tying, two-run homer off Chad Qualls (1-0) in the eighth after Vance Worley threw seven impressive innings for Philadelphia.

But the Phillies answered in the bottom half. Scott Maine (0-1) hit pinch-hitter Juan Pierre with a one-out pitch and Jimmy Rollins singled off Rafael Dolis with two outs.

Polanco, who had just two RBIs in his first 71 at-bats, drove in two with a hard liner to the wall in left.

Diamondbacks 9, Marlins 5

In Miami, left-hander Patrick Corbin pitched 5 2-3 innings to win his major league debut, and Arizona beat the slumping Marlins.

The 22-year-old Corbin, who was called up from Double-A Mobile, struck out six and allowed three runs.

Cody Ransom and Justin Upton hit two-run homers, and Willie Bloomquist had a two-run double for Arizona.

Mark Buehrle (1-4) endured his worst outing this season. The left-hander lasted only five innings and allowed seven runs—four earned—and eight hits.

Brewers 8, Padres 3

In San Diego, Ryan Braun had his first three-homer game and added a two-run triple to tie his career high with six RBIs, leading Milwaukee to victory over San Diego.

The reigning NL MVP became the first player to hit three home runs in a game at spacious Petco Park since it opened in 2004.

Braun hit a solo homer in the fourth and a two-run shot in the fifth. Both were off rookie Joe Wieland (0-4). His third shot came in the seventh.

Braun came up again in the ninth and nearly equaled the major league record of four home runs in a game when he hit a triple that short-hopped the fence.

Milwaukee starter Randy Wolf (2-2) got the win after allowing three runs and nine hits in five innings.

MLB *suspends Delmon Young 7 days*

DETROIT (AP)—Delmon Young was suspended by Major League Baseball on Monday for seven days without pay following his arrest on a hate crime harassment charge last week in New York.

The commissioner's office said the suspension is retroactive to Friday, when Young was arrested after a late-night tussle at his hotel during which police say he yelled anti-Semitic epithets.

"Those associated with our game should meet the responsibilities and standards that stem from our game's stature as a social institution," Commissioner Bud Selig said in a statement. "An incident like this cannot and will not be tolerated. I understand that Mr. Young is regretful, and it is my expectation that he will learn from this unfortunate episode."

The statement from the commissioner's office also said that Young would be required to participate in a treatment program.

Young is eligible for reinstatement from the restricted list May 4.

The suspension will cost Young approximately $257,240 of his $6,725,000 salary.

Speaking before the Tigers game against the Kansas City Royals was postponed by rain, Detroit general manager Dave Dombrowski said Young will not appeal the ruling and that he will not face additional discipline by the team when he comes off the restricted list Friday.

"Under the (collective bargaining agreement), there's no dual discipline," he said. "He'll be activated and ready to play on Friday. If he's not in the lineup, that will be the manager's decision. He's been working out over the weekend, and took batting practice today, so he'll be physically ready on Friday."

Around 2:30 a.m. Friday, Young was standing outside the team hotel in New York. Nearby, a group of about four Chicago tourists staying at the hotel were approached by a panhandler wearing a yarmulke and a Star of David around his neck, according to police.

Afterward, as the group walked up to the hotel doors, Young started yelling anti-Semitic epithets, police said.

It was not clear whom Young was yelling at, but he got into a scuffle with the Chicago group, and a 32-year-old man was tackled and sustained scratches to his elbows, according to police and the criminal complaint.

Both Young and the group went inside the hotel, and at some point, police were called, and Young was arrested, police said. Young was first taken to a hospital because he was believed to be intoxicated, police said.

Young apologized to his teammates and fans in a statement before being arraigned hours after his arrest.

Dombrowski did not know any of the details of the treatment program. It is not known if Young would undergo sensitivity training, treatment for alcohol and anger issues or some combination.

"We have not been told those details, and we might never know all of them," he said. "When Miguel (Cabrera) was in a similar program last spring, I never saw the entire treatment program. The team is just told what they need to know to facilitate the player's work in the program."

Young is hitting .242 in 18 games, batting fifth in the order behind Miguel Cabrera and Prince Fielder. He has one homer and five RBIs.

Maharot Crew upsets Ali'I Kamote in Masters

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

VFW Post 3457's Maharot Crew shocked frontrunner Ali'I Kamote, 11-6, in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Master Division to pull within three games of the lead as the Winter/Summer 2012 Bud Light League season continued last Wednesday.

In addition, Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks, Bammy's Restaurant Bar & Grill's Bud Brothers, Jonny's Try Luck, SOS Bar & Grill's DJ Fish, VFW Post 3457's Good Guys II, and Jonny's AG-Sakude! are the current front runners of the C Division, A Division, Ladies, B Fanihi, B Flame Tree, and Inter-Government groupings, respectively, after conclusion of last week's matchups.

Although Masters leader Ali'I Kamote stumbled to an aching road upset compliments of VFW's second place Maharot Crew (101-69) on Wednesday, they still remain at the helm with an overall win-loss slate of 104-66.

Meanwhile, Bammy's Aces (3-77) trumped SOS' Mixblood Rookies (84-86), 10-7, on the road to maintain third place ahead of SOS' All Stars (91-79), which routed VFW's D'Companeros (61-109), 13-4, at home. SOS' Destroyers (83-87), for its part, defeated Bammy's Sabalu Boyz (63-107), 11-6, on the road.

Also on Wednesday, C Division's Sparks bested Oceanside Bar & Grill's third place V1 Shooters (80-70), 10-5, to improve to 87-63.

Just a game back in the second chair sits Bammy's DRP (86-64), which spanked Naked Fish's Hafa Mas!, 14-1, at home, while Oceanside's sixth-ranked V2 Shooters (70-80) upset VFW's Party Rock (77-73), 9-6, and 19th Hole's caboose team Hole In One (53-97) stunned Island Apparel Oh MG! (74-76), 9-6, in a road match held at Naked Fish.

Going back to Monday, A Division's Bud Brothers (101-69) routed VFW's Primos (60-110), 15-2, on the road to move into first place by a game ahead of SOS' Mixblood Shooters II (100-70).

Mixblood II absorbed an 8-9 upset at home to Sand's seventh-ranked Juvy Predators (73-97), while Bammy's Sabalu (96-74) defeated sister team Celebrity (78-92), 12-5, in a road draw to remain in third place and 101 Proofers (89-81) survived Naked Fish Boyz (83-87), 10-7, at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

Also on Monday, Try Luck snuck past Momes'l Mei (66-84), 8-7, in a road match at Bammy's to improve to 105-45.

Sixteen games back comes VFW's B-52 Shooters (89-61), which downed Daarty Deedz (44-106), 12-3, while Naked Fish's Man Amigas (86-64) remain in third place despite absorbing a 6-9 road upset to Joe's Steakhouse's fourth ranked Just Like Dat (82-68). 19th Hole Bar & Grill's Reapers (71-79) plucked Joe's Daffodils (57-93), 12-3, at home.

B-Fanihi's DJ Fish fell short in Thursday's matchup against Poseidon's seventh-ranked One Shot (63-87), 7-8, but remain the team to beat by a dozen games with its 98-52 card.

Moreover, its sister team Lights Out is still riding shotgun after dismantling Bammy's third-ranked DRP-2 (84-66), 11-4, on the road, while Es'y's Kitchen Shooters (74-76) romped Jonny's Adventurers (59-91), 14-1, at home and Naked Fish's Na'Gupu (70-80) triumphed over the Dutty Gunz (66-84), 10-5, in a road match at VFW.

B-Flame Tree pacer Good Guys II reclaimed the top spot last Thursday after chopping up Lilapuching, 12-3, at Bammy's.

Good Guys II improved its record to 88-62 and clung to first place ahead of Joe's Skoregazzzums and Jonny's Rehab by just two games.

Skoregazzzums dunked The Water Front (68-82), 11-4, at home, while Rehab steamrolled SOS' What U Got (61-89), 14-1, also in a home match. Jonny's Retsa Sakudi II (77-73) then defeated Dart Freaks (74-76), 9-6, at the 19th Hole.

On Friday, Inter-Government's AG-Sakude torched NMC Proa (45-105), 14-1, at Naked Fish to improve to 108-42, while Bammy's second-ranked Team CUC-Power Plant (95-55) made it past DPS Enforcers (52-98), 9-6, in a road pairing held at Jonny's.

BREWERS

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Then after a walk and a bean ball later leadoff man Darren Pua singled Pangelinan and Derron Flores, while Secharmidal followed with a double that scored Jay Tilipao and Pua.

The Yankees started a two-run answer in the top of the fourth, but the Brewers tapped reliever Vince Cepeda to put out the fire.

Both teams came out with a run in the fifth inning to make it, 10-3, and then they each moved around three runs in the sixth, which shifted the count to 13-6.

The Yankees utilized some crafty base-running that was capitalized by an RBI base smash by Ben Jones, but the Brewers seemed to always have an answer last Wednesday and fired back with three runs produced mainly by a pair of doubles by Celis and Sablan.

Celis led off the portion with a double, after which Yankees second reliever Gary Cruz came to the mound for Jonathan Tenorio. Cruz faced Sablan and served up another double, while Pangelinan later touched all four after getting plunked at the plate.

Cruz bashed an RBI single in an effort to help his cause in the top of the seventh, but the Brewers put up three more runs in the bottom frame thanks to a couple early free bases and three hits. Sablan and Kaipat bagged RBI singles.

The Yankees' last flicker of hope came from an RBI base rip by Chris Camacho in the top of the eighth inning and the Brewers finished them off a frame early.

Ton Manibusan and Josh Muna started off the eighth for the Brewers with a pair of base hits and Secharmidal drove in the former as they loaded up the bases to set the stage for an anticlimactic RBI walk ending.

The Brewers knocked the ball all over the place and finished with 16 hits as a unit in the game.

Winning pitcher Cepeda gave up three earned runs off four hits and eight walks with five strikeouts through five strong innings.

Brewers' Kaipat batted 2-for-4 with five RBIs and a base on balls. Sablan went 2-for-3 with three RBIs, four runs, two base on balls, a stolen base, and a hit-by-pitch.

MAN

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ies (1-3), 7-5, in the women's division pairing, while men's Warriors (2-4) rose up over Team Familia (3-5),13-4, in the late feature.

Saipal (4-4), Berdax (3-3), 6-Pack (2-3), G-Ballers (2-5), and Talu Fahn (1-6) make up the rest of the men's division.

The women's division, meanwhile, shows Check It Out undefeated in first place through four matches, with defending champions Sakudi (3-2) in second place followed by third-ranked 670 Babes (2-2).

Elias 14, X-clusive 3

Team Elias' Mike Cruz broke the ice with a leadoff triple and scored on a fielder's choice in the first inning.

X-clusive's Mike Manas locked it at 1-1 later in the bottom of the third with an RBI single that scored Ben Duenas, but Team Elias erupted in the top half of the fourth with five runs scored off an error and a pair of two-run homers by B.J. Nicolas and J.P. Sablan.

X-clusive trimmed its deficit to 3-6 in the bottom frame with two runs off three hits. Manas bagged an RBI single.

Team Elias cranked out another eight runs in the fifth inning to put the run-rule into effect and held strong for the win.

Team Elias smashed seven hits including a pair of doubles by Cruz (RBI) and Glen Camacho (two RBIs) and a two-run blast by Mel Manahane.

Gagu Eyes 17, Ur Balls 16

Gagu Eyes overcame a pair of long balls in the first inning with eight hits in the bottom frame, which worked out to an early 7-4 advantage;. Gagu Eyes' Tyrone Omar and Noki Torres bagged RBI singles and Nokki Saralu bashed a two-run homer.

Ur Balls countered and went in front, 8-7, in the second inning with a two-run blast by Mike Taitano and a pair of RBI singles by Marvin Kaipat and Juan Maratita, but Gagu Eyes' Jesus Iguel tied it in the bottom frame with a solo bash.

Then after a quiet third, Your Ball managed an 11-10 edge after the fourth when a couple of errors loaded the bases for an RBI walk and a two-RBI base rip by Audie Maratita.

Gagu Eyes' Juan Tenorio turned the tables in the fifth, however, with a three-run homer that made it 13-12, but it was not over yet as the game became knotted at 16-all in the sixth inning.

Gagu Eyes took care of business out on field in the top of the last inning and its pitcher J.R. Brel stepped in the box and pulled around a leadoff walk-off home run for the win.

Natibu 22, Managaha 5

Natibu gashed Managaha with nine runs out of the gate off six hits and some errors. J.R. Suel lifted a two-run home run, Bruce Norita cracked a two-RBI base rip, and Victor Salas bashed a grand slam.

They added four more in the second inning off another five hits highlighted by a leadoff triple by Jon Welson and a two-run bomb by Jerry Guerrero.

Managaha managed its first run in the third inning after Natibu tacked up six runs to go ahead, 19-0, in the top half off eight hits.

Natibu added three more runs at the start of the fourth and coasted to the early win.

Natibu's B.J. Sablan batted 3-for-3.

Man Amigos 23, Manelos 13

Manelos stood tall, 9-7, after an explosive opening canto with a slew of 10 hits, but Man Amigos needed just two swings from Jerry Ayuyu and Julian Camacho to remain in range in the bottom side.

Manelos countered with a three-run homer followed by an RBI double, an RBI single, and an RBI triple from Nicko Martin, Pat Alepuyo, and Shane Mediola, respectively. Two other runs came off errors.

Then four walks and a base hit set up a three-run shot for Ayuyu and a grand slam by Camacho.

Man Amigos then pulled ahead, 10-9, in the second inning from an error and a couple of RBI singles by J.J. Laniyo and Camacho.

Manelos managed two runs from a long ball by Pete Tomokane in the top of the third, but Man Amigos' top of the order pressed on, 18-11, in the bottom frame off eight hits.

John Reyes busted a two-run home run, Laniyo and Ben Jones bagged RBI singles, and Camacho delivered a two-RBI base knock.

Manelos' Jun Cruz tried to get things in what would be the final stand with a leadoff solo shot, but it was to no avail. He batted 3-for-3 with another run in the game.

Man Amigos' Camacho swung 4-for-4 with seven RBIs and another run.

Enamo Meta 17, Rookies 5

Enamo Meta jumped ahead, 7-0, in the first inning off an early error, three hits, four walks, and a fielder's choice. Vanessa Mobel and Evelyn Kani bagged RBI singles.

The Rookies salvaged three runs from a two-RBI triple and an RBI base smash by Nadine Camacho, but Enamo Meta powered ahead, 15-3, in the third inning off six hits, a fielder's choice, and some error. Julie Guerrero and Mobel bagged RBI singles and Kani a two-RBI base rip.

Rookies only responded with one run in the bottom frame and were one-upped again in the fourth inning, 2-1.

They held down Enamo Meta in the top of the fifth, but could not muster the three runs needed to keep the game going.

Enamo Meta's Mobel batted 4-for-4 with two RBIs and a run and Guerrero went 3-for-3 with an RBI and three runs. Rookies' Maribelle Igitol swung 3-for-3 with two RBIs and a run.

Warriors 13, Familia 4

Warriors built an early five-run lead in the opening frame off five hits with Darren Pua and Marley Techur bagged RBI singles.

Familia got one back in the bottom frame off an error, but went scoreless in the next three frames.

The Warriors added three runs in the third off another six hits and finished strong with five runs in both the sixth and seventh innings.

Warriors' Melvin Keller gripped a two-RBI single, Joshua Garde bagged an RBI base rip, and Fred Pangelinan jacked a two-run shot in the sixth, while the crew worked around its runs off three hits and a fielder's choice in the last frame.

Familia managed three runs off three hits and a sacrifice fly in the fifth and sixth innings, but could not posture a real comeback.

Warriors' Techur batted 4-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs.

JUNIOR

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Tsukogoshi was a 6-0, 6-1 winner in her first round assignment against Angela Jun.

Hana Nelson and Grace Choi also made it to the quarters after wins over Anna Calvert (6-3, 6-0) and Gillian Villagomez (6-3, 6-3), respectively. Cho eventually lost to Isabel Heras though, 6-0, 6-0.

Results of the doubles division will be published in tomorrow's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*.

The two-weekend tournament is the last local event that awards ranking points to junior players.

At the end of the season, the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will compile all rankings to determine the CNMI's representatives to the 2012 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June. The Top 5 players in the ranking list in the U15 and U12 age groups and Top 4 in the U18 will earn slots on the team.

42 SIGN

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Southern California.

SSC said former members Jennifer Pierce and Vincent Seman as well as SSC head coach Mike Villagomez have also again accepted the challenge of the Escape from Managaha.

Last year, 34 swimmers ranging in ages between eight and 66 completed the swim across the channel with Lennosuke Suzuki and Taiga Sato as the youngest competitors.

Both will be repeating the swim this year along with SSC's 6-year-old swimmers—Taiyo Akimaru and Jinnosuke Suzuki. The latter two who will attempt their first crossing with SSC associate coach Mieko Carey.

The club said members and guest swimmers will surely make it a full *Sun Rider* on the trip to Managaha early this coming Saturday.

Last year, Kento Akimaru beat out 32 other swimmers to win the 2011 Escape from Managaha. He completed the swim in 40 minutes and 4.21 seconds.

The late registration fee for the Escape from Managaha Island, payable to Saipan Swim Club, is $25 which includes a boat ride to Managaha.

However, registration for the morning of the event will be on a space-available basis. Participants and kayakers are asked to be at Smiling Cove boat ramp near DPS Boating and Safety by 5:30am.

The swim begins at 6:30am with the fastest swimmers making landfall around 7:10am. Wet suits, fins, snorkels, and buoys may be used. But swimmers must be able to make it through the channel by 9am.

Friends and family can await swimmers at the finish line at Micro Beach between the playground and Bell Tower. For more information, email SSC official Suzy Kindel suzykindel@yahoo.com.

COPSSA Boys Varsity Basketball Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Grace Christian Academy's Angelo Salas pulls up for a floater against a Mt. Carmel School defender during their title game in the COPSSA boys varsity caging last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Grace Christian Academy's Jonathan Salas looks for a teammate to pass the ball to after getting the rebound.

A Grace Christian Academy player is sandwiched by two Mt. Carmel School defenders.

Mt. Carmel School's Reynald Cabaltica escapes with an easy layup.

Mt. Carmel School's Matthew Igitol pulls up for a jumper against Grace Christian Academy's Jonathan Salas.

Mt. Carmel School's Angelo Montes goes up for a baby hook against two Grace Christian Academy defenders.

Grace Christian Academy's James Libut, right, tries to block the shot of Mt. Carmel School's John Saludez.

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Junior tennis championships gets going

Carl Dela Cruz, seen here in a file photo from last year, joined three others in the semis of the boys 15-and-under division of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships after beating Colin Ramsey in straight sets last Sunday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The first week of the 2012 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships is in the books after 28 singles and doubles matches went down at both the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club tennis courts this past weekend.

In the boys 15-and-under, Carl Dela Cruz, Seiya Eda, Tommy Choi, and Chris Cajigan are into the Final Four.

After getting a bye in the first round, Dela Cruz advanced to the semis after beating Colin Ramsey, 6-1, 6-1. Ramsey defeated Troy Young, 6-0, 6-1, in the opening round.

Eda, for his part, also made quick work of Daniel Lim, 6-2, 6-0, to join Dela Cruz in the upper half of the semis.

Choi, meanwhile, was a 6-1, 6-1 victor against Dylan Ackerman to set up a lower bracket semis duel against Cajigan, who won his quarterfinals match against Michael Ren, 6-2, 7-6.

Over in the girls 15-and-under, defending champion Mikayla Lopez had an auspicious start after outplaying Adele Hudkins, 6-1, 6-0.

Pint-sized Negahr Rastguiy showed her big fighting heart after withstanding Emily Jones, 7-5, 6-2, in the only other match of the division.

Seven matches were played in the girls 12-and-under with the opening round duel between Tania Tan and Mimi Sakano hands down the most exciting.

Tan took the first set, 6-3, but her opponent refused to give in and took the second, 6-2. Sakano and Tan played neck-and-neck in the deciding third set before the latter pulled through with a 6-4 victory.

Tan took on top seed Carol Lee in the next round and lost, 6-0, 6-1. Lee will take on Liza Atalig next. Atalig advanced after beating Ami Tsukogoshi, 6-3, 6-1.

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Man Amigos and Natibu remain unscathed in CSA

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Last year's Chamolinian Softball Association-Budweiser Softball League top contenders Man Amigos and Natibu so far are tugging at the wishbone again as the men's division regular season continued last week at the Capitol Hill Field.

Both rival teams remain the only undefeated squads left among the 15-team field and both notched another couple of strong four-inning victories.

This past Wednesday, Natibu marched past Managaha (0-7), 22-5, for its eight victory, while last April 23 the defending champion Man Amigos tallied its sixth win over Manelos (4-2), 23-13.

In other men's results, Team Elias (4-2) stepped up last Wednesday against X-clusive (3-4), 14-3, while Gagu Eyez (5-2) outlasted Ur Balls (4-2), 17-16, in a back-and-forth battle for third place that closed the night.

Back on April 23, Enamo Meta (2-5) made it past Rook-

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Warriors' Marley Techur, seen here in a file photo, batted 4-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs in his team's victory over Familia in the ongoing CSA 2nd Budweiser Softball League men's division held last April 23 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Brewers spank Northern Yankees, 18-8

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Tan Holdings-Brewers laid down the lumber on the Northern Yankees, 18-8, in last Wednesday's Saipan Major League Baseball Association matchup held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Both teams now share identical 2-1 win-loss records.

Meanwhile, Monday's game between the Ol'Aces (2-0) and the 2011 champion St. Michael's Medical Response Angels (2-1) was postponed until further notice because the umpires went on strike.

According to the current schedule the Yankees are penciled in against the D-9ers (0-2) as the season's first battle for the north takes place at the Tan Ko Field tonight at 6:30pm.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Brewers' Byron Kaipat, seen here in a file photo, racked up five RBIs in his team's 18-8 win against the Northern Yankees in the SML last Wednesday at the Francisco C. Palacios Ballfield.

Brewers 18, Northern Yankees 8

Brewers' Oliver Secharmidal made it on and around in the first inning and a couple of walks later, Byron Kaipat drove in Roy Celis and Manny Sablan for a quick 3-0 lead.

Pitcher Thomas Camacho held the Yankees scoreless for the first three innings as the Brew Crew poured on six more runs off four hits to close the third frame.

Celis led off the uproar with a triple and was brought to the dish with a sacrifice fly by Kaipat. Mike Pangelinan stepped in next and drove home Sablan.

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42 sign up for Saturday's 'Escape'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A total of 42 intrepid swimmers so far have signed up for this Saturday's 9th Annual Escape from Managaha.

The Saipan Swim Club said the usual cadre of club swimmers will take part in the 2.4-kilometer open water swim from the tourist hotspot to Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

SSC said senior swimmers Victoria Chentsova and Kento Akimaru are the favorites to win the event.

The two, however, are expected to encounter stiff competition from Ed Ewing and Jeff El-Hajj.

Ewing previously swam for a masters group in San Francisco, California, while El-Hajj is a former water polo player at the University of

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kento Akimaru won the 2011 edition of the Escape from Managaha by timing in at 40 minutes and 4.21 seconds.